

Paint stripper or health tonic?
New "legal" alternative to GHB arrives in San Francisco. Proceed with extreme caution.
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Tavern-gilding
The Castro Station is now The Bar On Castro.
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What a concept!
Brainy conceptual art at LA's MOCA.
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 28 • No. 51 • 17 December 1998

Serving the Gay & Lesbian Community for more than 27 years

United boycott goes national

by Cynthia Laird

United Airlines's aggressive refusal to provide benefits to domestic partners of its employees has prompted gay activists to take a United boycott beyond the Bay Area. On Monday, December 14 San Francisco's three gay and lesbian supervisors spoke outside the temporary City Hall in favor of a national boycott of the airline — although they emphasized they're acting as individuals and their actions are independent of the city. They were joined by members of the local group Equal Benefits Advocates (EBA) and the Washington D.C.-based Human Rights Campaign (HRC).

Locally, EBA has been calling for a boycott of United since September and activists have picketed United's downtown San Francisco ticket office for months, trying to draw attention to the issue. They got a big boost when HRC endorsed the effort Monday.

In an attempt to call attention to the boycott, EBA is staging another "United Against United" rally this Tuesday, December 22 at 6 p.m. at Harvey Milk Plaza, on the corner of Castro and Market streets. Assorted politi-

cians will be on hand, including Assemblywoman Carole Migden and the city's gay and lesbian supervisors. The group held a smaller rally last Tuesday, December 8.

At issue is United's refusal to implement San Francisco's landmark equal benefits law as it was modified for airlines by U.S. District Court Judge Claudia Wilken. In a decision handed down in April, Wilken ruled United does not have to offer health and pension benefits because the airlines fall under federal regulations that preempt local law. However, she also ruled the airlines do have to offer other benefits, such as travel, bereavement leave, and family leave.

United's dispute with the city stems from a \$25 million contract covering kitchen and ground facilities at San Francisco International Airport (SFO) that United leases from the city. As a lessee, the airline is obliged to comply with a city law that went into effect June 1, 1997, requiring companies doing business with the city to offer benefits to domestic partners of employees if those benefits are offered to employee spouses. United has resisted those efforts, and has initiated continued legal action against the city.

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Rick Gerhardt

David Smith of the Human Rights Campaign announced on December 14 that HRC will join the boycott of United Airlines because of the company's refusal to offer domestic partner benefits. Looking on (from right) were Supervisors Leslie Katz, Mark Leno, Tom Ammiano, and Sue Bierman, as well as activists Geoff Kors and Carol Stuart.



Stem heat: Esteban Prieto glassware at F. Dorian on Hayes Street



A variety of cool time-pieces at Watch Zone in the Castro.

Photos by Jafe Phommen Chland

What's hot in Hayes Valley?

Archaeologist Howard Carter said upon looking into Tutankhamen's tomb "Yes! Wonderful things!" and those are what await you in the hot Hayes Valley, which runs along that eponymous boulevard roughly from Franklin to almost Waller. It's blossomed into the epitome of the best a city can offer: humor, sophistication, food, art, charm, passers-by both elegant and funky, all in over 80 little shops and galleries. You can fill stockings with trinkets or begin your serious art investment strategy right now in these packed blocks, which beguile with the appealing opposite of a shopping mall: Rejoice! Rejoice! You are indeed beyond the rainbow here, and nothing is mundane, nothing mainstream.

Start at **Polanco**, at 393 Hayes, a pulsating and almost sacred space devoted exclusively to Mexican art, where even the walls are drenched with scarlets, magenta, rose blush, orange and pumpkin. There are crucifixes, painted wooden masks, a tree full of lightweight straw ornaments (delightful handmade red balls,) glazed pottery, stunning silver jewelry, and hundreds of carved figurines for El Dia de Los Muertos, the Day of the Dead. Don't miss the fantastical papier-mâché animals from Oaxaca, (\$20 to over \$100), especially the hot-pink dragon.

Across the street, **F. Dorian, Inc.**, at 388 Hayes Street, sports a powerful seismic brace and some of the most delicate, wonderfully colorful gifts you can imagine. No surprise; they're linked with the Craft and Folk Art Museum at Fort Mason, and the Center for the Arts in



by Monique Doryland

What's cool in the Castro?

What makes the Castro cool (beyond its queerness, of course, all of us daily rolling and strolling about in our holiday feathers) is how *intime* and yet spread out it is, tentacles cheerfully curling down 18th, Upper Market, and all the way to Church. So this survey of seasonal shopping choices is artificially constrained, (lace it tighter!) because there are so many glittering windows displaying devastatingly cool stuff for that Hanukkah bagatelle, that Solstice surprise. Personify the Santa with sang-froid, or drag your own personal shopper along for a last-minute spree and be specific; after all, if you don't say what you want, who knows what you'll get!

Walk in to **The Watch Zone**, 2319 Market Street, where illuminated wall clocks walk around the walls telling you the time in Athens, Miami's South Beach, New Orleans, Amsterdam, and Tokyo, among others. Has she hinted about a new watch on her wrist? Classy, traditional and cutting-edge gifts abound, with 25 different lines including Tag Heuer, Seiko, Movado, Raymond Weil, and Swatch. Very cool: nifty, modular Storm™ watches (\$65.00 to \$150.00) with double pop-out flanges in burnished aluminum.

Feeling provincial? Enter **Dometics** at 545 Castro, designed to appeal to Euro-queers carousing in the gay Mecca with comfortable clothes made in the U.S.A. (Very useful if you'd like to avoid buying stuff made in overseas sweat-shops!) Grown-up flannel pajamas in candy soft colors for girls and boyz with acid-trip innocence prints for \$69. Very cozy, very cool:

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Sister power



Rick Gerharter

Some 15 community organizations benefitted from the largesse of the sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, who distributed their third cycle of grants last Sunday, Dec. 13, at Harvey's in the Castro. The Sisters raised and distributed \$25,000 this year to such groups as Family Link, API Wellness Center, Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center, and the Dolores Street Community Center.

Toy Factory explosion

Benefits go to UCSF

by Mark Norby

Bring a toy, give a gift, get a drink, pick up a boy. It's Townsend Toy Factory and it's not just for beefcake anymore. This Saturday, December 19 at 8 p.m. sharp, Club Universe hosts the seventh annual Townsend Toy Factory holiday party benefiting the University of California, San

Francisco (UCSF) Pediatric AIDS/HIV Treatment Center. Everyone is invited (including the traditional troops of toned and trimmed titans) and 100 percent of the proceeds will benefit kids affected by AIDS and HIV infection.

The benefit starts with a cocktail party and hors d'oeuvres. Music, muscles, faux minks, and the finest in mingling combine to ensure an evening of holiday hipness.

This year's sponsors include Virgin Megastore, KMEL Radio, Miller Beer, Golden Brands, Harvey's, and Fete Catering.

Those who bring a new, unwrapped toy for a girl or a boy will get a free drink, compliments of Club Universe. A \$25 donation is requested at the door and includes admission to San Francisco's longest running all-night gay

dance party.

Club Universe is also making it clear that it does not plan to close anytime soon to make room for a parking garage, contrary to popular rumors. "We have the lease at least until 2003," said Townsend's publicist Marcus Wonacott. "Business is great and we'll be around and the rumors are false," he added.

So dance, rock, feel the heat. Make a difference while you shop for meat. Give a gift and bring some joy, make it for a girl or make it for a boy. Let the season be light and let it be gay, and fill the universe in a Townsend way. ▼

Club Universe is located at 177 Townsend Street at 3rd. For more information give the club a call at (415) 289-6650.

Queer youth party wishes all a happy, crappy, poopy, campy holiday

by Mark Norby

Even the South Park kids would have a hard time living up to the Holiday Dance Party for queer youth this Saturday, December 19 at the Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 19th and Collingwood streets. The party is for queer youth 23 years (or so, as the invitation says) and younger. But donations are needed from people of all ages, goods, talent, and otherwise.

Making a special guest appearance will be the sometimes nutty, sometimes creamy, often brown or greenish-brown, Mr. Hanky the Christmas Poo. Kick ass!

The party is sponsored by the outreach committee of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) Community Center Project and the Eureka Valley Teen Program, in cooperation with the city's Department of Parks and Recreation. The organizations are asking for generous donations of food, clothes, accessories, and anything you find in your heart or in your boudoir in order to make this holiday a flawless one for

queer youth.

"The holidays can be rough and tough," says organizer Sister Kitty Catalyst, "but, for at least a few hours, we're escaping."

"We're going to a magical place where (for free!) kids can get a new outfit, accessories, a new do (or just a haircut), dance a bit and eat as much healthy nibbles as we can get donated," she said.

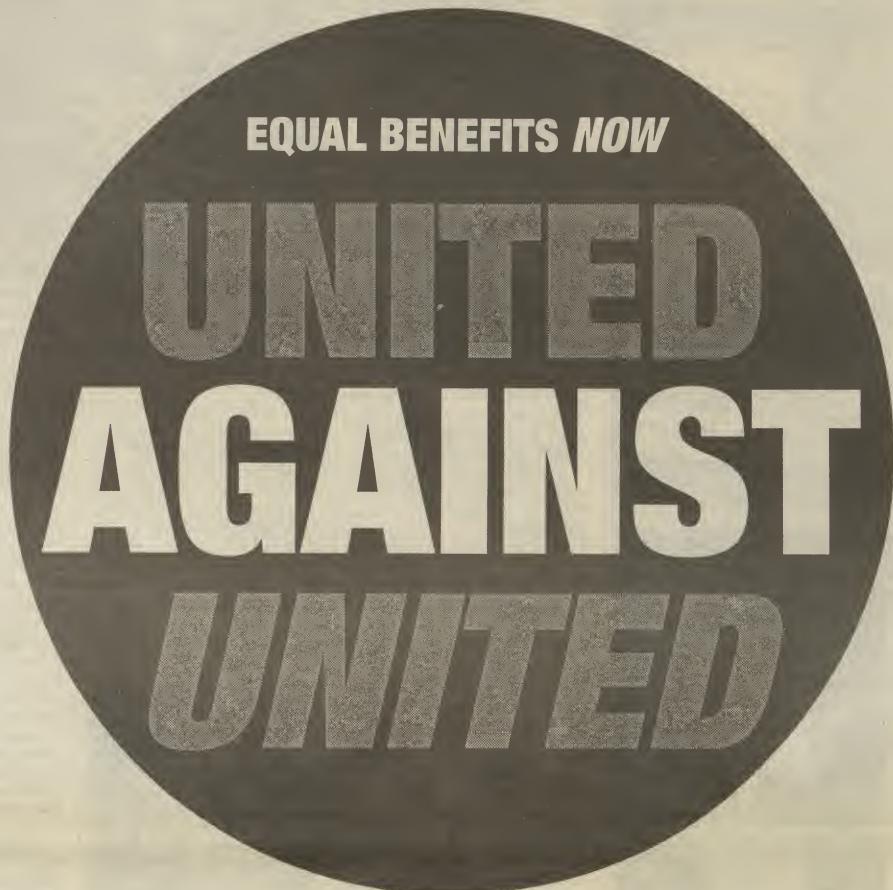
The party starts with a styling salon and dancing at 7 p.m., and goes until midnight. The salon needs make-up artists, wig mistresses, salon servants, sexy manicurists, door divas, stage mistresses (for the cabaret), and food queens.

The kids also need donations of beverages, any and all haircare products (naturally), personal care products, hair stylists and hair cutters, chocolate, mirrors, haircutting supplies, and anything that would be fabulous for queer kids of all persuasions and heel sizes.

Organizers wish to emphasize that this is a chicken party and any hawks that show up will be duly plucked, marinated, and barbecued over hideously disfigured Yule logs. ▼

"We have rarely seen anything so appalling in over a decade of gay and lesbian workplace organizing... Clearly, United has redefined corporate irresponsibility and they ought to fasten their seatbelts, because they should expect a great deal of turbulence in the upcoming months caused by their treatment of gays and lesbians."

Elizabeth Birch, Executive Director, Human Rights Campaign / The HRC endorsed the boycott on December 14, 1998



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- If United withdraws their lawsuit, the boycott is over.

Swimming to Wyoming

by Jim Provenzano

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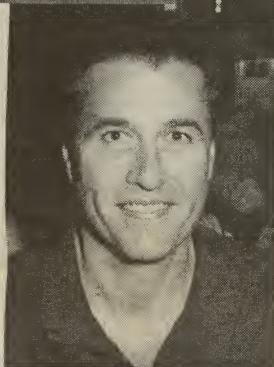
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esbian and gay athletes spent November combating hate in an unusual way; they swam laps.

During November, participating San Francisco Tsunami swimmers tracked their yardage for each workout, swimming as many miles as possible by the end of the month.

Their goal, according to swimmer Kris Nergaard, "was to raise funds for causes that fight hate and ignorance. The aquatic athletes collectively performed a virtual swim of 1,109 miles, the distance from San Francisco to Laramie, Wyoming," where gay student Matthew Shepard was fatally beaten on October 9.

Team organizer Todd Hill said that "most people pledged a dollar a mile, although we did get some bigger pledges" for the nearly 50 swimmers who participated in the event. "Everybody felt the tragedy, so they wanted to do something."

They got friends and co-workers to sponsor them and raised more than they expected, and in



Jane Philpot/UPI/land

Swim scene: members of Tsunami, the gay swim team, raised \$13,000 in their recent marathon swim of 1,109 miles (the distance from S.F. to Laramie, Wyoming) in memory of Matthew Shepard. The funds will benefit anti-violence and anti-hate groups.

record time.

At a Team Tsunami holiday party on December 13, swimmer Neil Hart was honored. He personally raised over \$4,000. The total count is over \$12,000.

Among the beneficiaries are Community United Against Violence (CUAV), a San Francisco based organization to combat hate violence, The National

Coalition of Anti-Violence Projects, a coalition of anti-violence groups from across the country that works to combat hate violence of all kinds, and Anti-Violence Project of Equality, Colorado, a group working closely with grassroots organizations in Northern Colorado and Wyoming in response to Shepard's death. ▼

Friday returning to police commission

by Cynthia Laird

ongtime Bay Area Reporter political editor and columnist Wayne Friday was named to the San Francisco Police Commission last week by Mayor Willie Brown. Friday, who recently retired from the district attorney's office where he worked as a senior investigator for 16 years, previously served on the police commission from 1993-96 under former Mayor Frank Jordan.

Friday will replace openly gay businessman Edward Petrillo, who resigned. Friday said he'll probably be sworn in after the new year. He joins openly lesbian



Marc Geller

Commissioner Pat Norman on the five-member panel.

Norman just finished up a stint

as commission president; Commissioner Dennis Herrera, an attorney, was unanimously elected president last Wednesday, December 9 and Commissioner Sidney Chan was elected vice president. Also serving on the commission is attorney Connie Perry.

Prior to his job at the district attorney's office, Friday tended bar on Polk Street and was president of the San Francisco Tavern Guild. Before that, he worked for a now-defunct brokerage firm for 15 years.

Friday said he is looking forward to returning to the police commission, which provides some oversight of the police department, particularly in cases of discipline against officers. ▼

Lesbian Toni Young is the new HIV consumer rights advocate

by Cynthia Laird

After months of developing the proposal and putting it out for bid, the HIV Health Services Planning Council and the San Francisco Department of Public Health AIDS Office have finally selected someone to serve as the HIV consumer rights advocate. She is open lesbian Toni Young, who worked for Catholic Charities until recently, and serves as a community co-chair on the city's HIV Prevention Planning Council. Her new job started in October, but was initiated last year after activists and members of the HIV Health Services Planning Council decided that a position was needed to help people receiving CARE-funded services work through complicated grievance procedures at AIDS service organizations (ASO).

Last year, activist Michael Petrelis was extremely vocal in calling for an ombudsman after he was denied services by the HIV Services Partnership, which consists of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, Shanti, and the AIDS Health Project. That is essentially what Young is, although the job title has been changed to HIV consumer rights advocate.

Right now, Young only works with people who receive CARE-funded services, but is hopeful that the program can be expanded. The \$75,000 contract for the consumer rights advocate isn't all going to Young, however; a good

portion of the money is budgeted for a media campaign later this month to alert people to the new service. Other money is budgeted for transportation for clients to get to and from appointments, translation services, and other items. If someone isn't comfortable working with Young, she said someone else will be brought in, and there's money in the budget for that.

Young has no office yet, but said she's mobile and will go to the client, who is often overwhelmed by the grievance procedures that vary from agency to agency.

Young told the *Bay Area Reporter* that one of her strengths is that she knows the system, and that can be daunting for someone living with HIV/AIDS who has a problem with an agency and wants help. Already, Young has three cases in the works and another two set to start soon.

"It can be overwhelming to people," she said in an interview. "The biggest challenge is to get everyone to play along." By that, she means bureaucrats in the AIDS Office and staff at ASOs throughout the city that receive federal Ryan White CARE funds.

Petrelis was enthusiastic about the consumer advocate position being filled. "This is a terrific development," he told the *B.A.R.* "I hope all clients of AIDS charities who are unfairly denied services will call Toni and seek redress."

One of Young's first tasks was meeting with the HIV Contractors Association, where she said she was well received and came



Toni Young
Cynthia Laird

away with some ideas. "This isn't a process to beat them over the head, this is a partnership. We all have the same goal." One thing she has started is asking that ASOs maintain grievance files, something that wasn't done before.

Young emphasized that all services are confidential.

And, in the two months that Young has been at her new job, she's already heard favorable responses from the clients she's serving.

"The best response was, 'Okay, I don't have to worry about this,'" Young said. ▼

To contact Toni Young, HIV consumer rights advocate, call (415) 474-7944.

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County's transportation authority moves ahead on equal benefits

by Cynthia Laird

The San Francisco County Transportation Authority's (SFTA) Finance Committee voted last Monday, December 7 to amend its administrative code to include an equal benefits provision for its procurement process. Supervisor Mark Leno, in his role as a transportation authority commissioner, introduced the proposal last month to extend equal benefits procurement provisions to SFTA's contracts.

The basic idea is for SFTA to include chapter 12b-type equal benefits provisions in its contracting procedures. Leno's proposal was the result of a story in the *Bay Area Reporter* in October that revealed the transportation authority is among several agencies that are exempt from the city's nondiscrimination laws and the equal benefits ordinance. The ordinance requires businesses that have contracts with the city to offer benefits to domestic partners of employees if those benefits are offered to employees' spouses. The transportation authority estimates that it has over \$1 million in contracts that do not fall under the city's requirements for contracting.

Leno said the next step in the

process involves staff developing policy provisions and a certification process for vendors. That should be completed by April. If approved by the full transportation authority, the change would take effect July 1, 1999, the start of the city's fiscal year. The transportation authority is the 11 members of the Board of Supervisors.

"The success of the equal benefits ordinance is obvious, but there are certain county entities which were not covered," Leno said. "The transportation authority is actively taking definitive steps to ensure that the companies with which it contracts provide benefits for its employees with domestic partners equal to those it provides its employees who have spouses."

Members of Equal Benefits Advocates, who have worked tirelessly on behalf of the city's landmark equal benefits ordinance, expressed approval of SFTA's planned action. "We applaud the transportation authority's progressive stance on expanding equal benefits provisions and encourage them to quickly amend their administrative code," said Jeff Sheehy.

Leno told the *B.A.R.* that he "expects to proceed with fluidity" on the matter. ▼

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BAY AREA REPORTER

Volume 28, Number 51
17 December 1998

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Symbol crashes

As we write these words, bombers are unloading their cargo over Baghdad. It's too serious and sudden for us to have much insight to add to the situation, so we won't insult anyone's intelligence by trying.

Instead, we'll take up a subject that has taken insulting intelligence to a whole new level: the GOP's persecution of its political enemy, Bill Clinton. Not that we think Clinton has been great to the B.A.R.'s readers, but we think (like most of the rest of this country) that the Congressional drama has stopped being a useful judicial process. It's become a Joan Crawford-style tantrum — "Do you call this blue dress clean?!" — which is hard enough to take from Joan Crawford, and just silly and ugly when acted out by the dumpy, frumpy, doughy House members who line up to grimace and recite their monologues for the news cameras.

Maybe the problem is that last month Americans sent a signal to Washington — at least, so say the media pundits — and signals and symbols aren't enough. At least, not when dealing with a pack of animals drunk on bloodlust and power. At first it seemed the signal was enough. For that one brief but magnificent instant, it appeared the GOP learned from its midterm election losses that it was galloping away from the rest of the country and over a cliff. But that moment was short-lived, and the vengeance returned with, well, a vengeance.

Now Clinton's foes apparently feel that because they have two years before they face the voters again, they can do whatever they want until then. So they're giving a big "Fuck you" to all the voters who made the effort last November 3 to get up in time, or leave work on time, or make sure the kids had a sitter, or whatever else was necessary, to get to the polls and vote.

Unfortunately for the voters who thought they were producing election re-

sults, all Congress allowed through was a signal. A symbol.

That kind of arrogance will either increase voter apathy, or end it, and we can't believe the country will reward lawmakers who don't know the difference between rushing to judgment and having judgment. As in perception, discernment, the ability to separate the wheat from the chaff - and then knowing the chaff is not worth keeping.

Only the threat of war has gotten the GOPs to focus on anything other than Monica's blue dress and Bill's cigar. But for everyone's sake, that turmoil in Iraq will end and the country will get back to business. But the dress and cigar and impeachment should not be among the items makin-

ing it to the Senate's agenda.

Americans meant to send lawmakers a message — not a signal — to take care of the real issues. In case Washington cannot see what those are, we'd say they include homelessness (Ronald Reagan's legacy of closing mental hospitals led directly to San Francisco's record homeless death rate this year); lack of educational opportunity (the fight over affirmative action proves that there are too few classrooms); healthcare (citizens literally kill themselves over it in this country, a phenomenon once only associated with disengaged Buddhist monks); and violence.

Three sacred holidays occur this week. May they bring peace on earth, and goodwill to all. ▼

Editorial



Wake up to a 'Xmas Future'

by Anand

I have been reading with interest for some time the continuing community input on what appears to amount to the 10 or 15 homeless "regulars" in the Castro area by the ever-growing influx of West Hollywood-style young people (and the old men who love them). As a student of Christ, it seems sad that for many who have tossed the Bible because of controversy about homosexuality, the remaining 99 percent of the book dealing with love, charity, compassion, and caring for the poor has also been dismissed.

I can, sadly, speculate that some emotionally and spiritually stunted people, forgetting from whom, ultimately, all of their gifts, especially the gift of life itself, have come, need someone to feel superior to, someone to judge and the unfortunate homeless who come to beg crumbs from a most opulent table fill the bill.

Because of illness and circumstance (six hospitalizations in as many months) I lost my rent-controlled Telegraph Hill apartment. My savings quickly exhausted, after almost 20 years in San Francisco, with basically all of my long-time friends dead of AIDS. "Couch surfing" is not an option. I returned to the Metropolitan Community Church, a place I'd once found fellowship and comfort when I first arrived in San Francisco, with its small congregation and a large wooden cross behind the pulpit. With what remains from my closet of Versace, Armani, and Ralph Lauren, being neither a drug addict nor alcoholic, bathed and clean-shaven (no shopping cart or track marks), I presented my plight on two Sundays in a row during pastoral prayer. The cross is gone, the small congregation now quite a large crowd, clergy quite formally attired, and a choir as choreographed as any Broadway show. I also posted a notice, as a Christian, in the church, stating what I could pay for temporary housing, since I'm not an unrealistic child, but a 42-year-old adult, and surely did not expect someone to

just hand me keys and cash (no "good Samaritans" here.)

After the services and coffee social, however, not even one person, including clergy, approached me to even offer a word of Christian concern, emotional support, or even interest, let alone shelter. Not one call on the posted notice for housing (these days \$500 doesn't buy much compassion, I suppose). Late for the "simply supper" I was handed a cookie by a clergy member (who looked as a \$5 bill was a tip for the valet who parks her car while she toys with a \$20-plus lunch) as my "dinner." Thank you Jesus and Amen. My notice, unanswered, was removed. Perhaps if I were as buffed as a young porn "actor," more "Christian" concern would have been extended. It is, after all, a "gay" church.

Most of the members have been blessed with real estate quadrupling in value over the years, in an area that I and so many of my now-deceased friends struggled to make, and keep gay. Many of them enjoy benefits that I, my now-deceased friend John Belshers, and others fought to achieve while chained to the federal building at Civic Center, being hosed down and jeered at living at the "AIDS Vigil" at the same location, being stepped on by police at peaceful demonstrations at drug laboratories using grant money to research AIDS drugs, then gouging patients with outrageous prices. We did all of this so the "new breed" of Castro residents could bring Martha Stewart to the veneer (three-bedroom flats rented for \$215 or so in 1978) and bring Ferdinand Marcos regime tactics to deal with unfashionable poor, just complain of them as an eyesore and bus them "somewhere" else?

As for their drug and alcohol use, in an area with 10 or more bars in only one or two blocks, and a stream of "circuit party girls" ("what haven't we tried?"), paid "escorts," and nouveaux riche landlords, it

seems more like the "pot calling the kettle black" than anything else to criticize the same behavior in the poor daily indulged in by the rich. Little compassion or concern seems evident to what inner pain or conflict causes these people to be abusing substances. Only the predominant preoccupation with how they look so common in emotionally immature, narcissistic and shallow, over-privileged people so fond of wearing designer labels on the outside of clothing with "designer bodies" under those clothes. Can we be surprised how the surrounding heterosexual communities see us, if this is how "the least of God's children" are being treated, with insult and criticism, simply for being conspicuously poor, instead of some counseling and concern, which couldn't cost all that much to the abundantly profiting business people and landowners to "beautify the neighborhood?"

Being so suddenly and frighteningly pulled from a private sector view of the Bay and a housekeeper to "housing" offered at the Mission Rock Homeless Shelter, on a disability income, I have had to see "their side" in a way I sincerely pray no one else should ever have to suffer. However, like the "Christmas Future" for Scrooge, such nightmares might wake someone up.

Fortunately, I was guided to the small and loving spiritual support of the "Freedom in Christ" gay church at 14th and Belcher streets, where tithes are still called tithes, not "pledges" for interior decor and building expansion, and clergy doesn't merely present token offerings "to be seen of men" doing it, with floodlights and floorshows.

If there is a Satan, perhaps by alienating so many from Christ's teaching of love over something so inconsequential as sexual preference, where the practice of charity and concern becomes inconvenient and annoying, he succeeds in hurting many who could be helped. ▼

Guest Opinion



LETTERS

'Queer' in context (I)

Following the letters challenging the *Bay Area Reporter's* use of the word "queer" has been a memorably unpleasant experience. It seems that some readers, pursuing a misguided sense of having been victimized by the very existence of the word "queer" as a designation for homosexuals, are out to force the gay newspaper of record in San Francisco to eradicate the word from its articles. The approach that these readers would favor would essentially substitute the word "gay" for the word "queer" in any circumstance in which it appears. Such a policy, if the *B.A.R.* goes beyond mulling it over and actually implements it, would have effects far beyond what its proponents might presume. The irony with all aspiring censors is that they invariably paint themselves as favoring an ideal that their hypocrisy actually betrays them as deteriorating. In this instance, those who would ban the word "queer" would, in so doing, simultaneously enforce the use of the word "gay." If that is not classic censorship, nothing is.

The word "gay" is not a magic-bearing, timeless, universal appellation for homosexuals. It is just as culturally contingent and socially constructed as "homosexual," "pansy," "poofster," "invert," "Uranian," "cocksucker," "fudgepacker," "faggot," or any other word (or epithet) which has been used to define same-sex identification. In fact, the use of the word "queer" as a self-descriptor (not as a label of shame imposed from the outside) by homosexuals themselves can be traced back to usages in New York City of the 1910s and 1920s, according to George Chauncey, and thus predates the advent of the use of the word "gay" for the same purpose. This is contrary to the revisionist assertions of people who would like to believe that "queer" is a word that was invented in the 1990s and forced upon all homosexuals by a terrorist cabal of rabid Queer Nation activists and queer studies professors armed with tongue piercings, goatees, leather jackets, texts by Foucault and Saussure, and a radical ax to grind.

The point is not that "queer" is a low-stress, harmless, value-neutral word. It is not. Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick writes, "The main reason why the self-application of 'queer' by activists has proved so volatile is that there's no way that any amount of affirmative reclamation is going to succeed in detaching the word from its associations with shame and with the terrifying powerlessness of gender-dissonant or otherwise stigmatized childhood. If 'queer' is a politically potent term, which it is, that's because, far from being capable of being detached from the childhood source of shame, it cleaves to that scene as a near inexhaustible source of transformational energy."

This would all be a tempest in a teapot if it were not for the fact that there are people out there actively agitating for the *B.A.R.* to stop using the word "queer" as a matter of editorial policy. This agitation is nothing more than a masked impulse to cultural conformity—as if one word could be more socially acceptable and less detrimental to the self-esteem of homosexuals than another, or perhaps in the hidden assumption that one word could help homosexuals achieve that eternally elusive nirvana of "normalcy," of blending in with heterosexual society, of "passing" as straight, of no longer being "other," a nirvana that is, not by coincidence, the express objective of much of gay culture in the 1990s. It is obvious that in another time and social context, the word "gay" was just as vilified, abhorred, and demonized as the word "queer" appears to be now. To quote David Halperin, "The endless and fruitless debates among lesbians and gay men over the respective merits of 'gay' or 'lesbian' versus 'queer' have not only wasted a lot of energy and generated a lot of ill feeling but more important, have inhibited careful evaluation of the strategic functioning of these terms, as if there could be any safety or security in adhering single-mindedly to the 'right' one (whichever that might be)."

Gays and lesbians, however we choose to name ourselves, are members of a group which itself is still, at the turn of the millennium, a constant target for policing and pathologizing by those who would control the way homosexuality is named, described, and classified. The most extreme example of this is the recent episode involving the man found wandering on Stanyan Street near St. Mary's Hospital in an amnesiac daze with the words "You don't deserve to live fucking queers" literally inscribed on his chest and abdomen. I doubt that this man's attackers stopped before they drugged and assaulted him to have a parlor room discourse about whether they should be appropriately scrawling "gay," "faggot," or "queer" on their putatively homosexual victim.

In this light, would-be expungers of the word "queer" should know better than to make an ultimatum of self-censorship to a gay newspaper. After all is said and done, the gay press is still one of the only arenas where gays and lesbians can maintain power over how they say "This is who we are."

Frank Martinez Lester
San Francisco

'Queer' in context (II)

The answer to whether the community should embrace the word queer as an identifying term is contained in a story on your front page. Allow me to quote: "You don't deserve to live fucking QUEERS," scrawled with a marker across his body." As long as that word is used in that context it cannot be acceptable.

Rick Salinas
San Francisco

Bath rumination

[The following was sent to Tom Ammiano, President-elect, San Francisco Board of Supervisors:]

I just returned from a trip back east to Ohio (family) and Chicago (relaxation) and had a wonderful time. While in Columbus, Ohio I was able to visit the Club Baths that they have recently opened. It was a very clean, friendly, and safe environment for men to meet, work out, and socialize with one another.

I also visited the Unicorn in Chicago. Unlike most of our sex clubs here, this place was also set up for men to meet sexually, work out, and socialize. It was also very clean, friendly, and safe.

I am writing to you because I strongly feel San Francisco is lagging behind the times as well as other major cities across the world when it comes to opening bath houses.

I've been to a number of sex clubs in San Francisco and I've had some decent times. However, there is no comparison to clubs that promote socialization, have good ventilation, showers, gyms, entertainment areas, non-smoking TV rooms, private rooms, pools, etc. The biggest problem with some of our sex clubs is poor ventilation which promotes influenza, bacterial infections, colds, etc. The other problem is the non-existence of showers to clean up efficiently.

I would like to see you take a serious look at this issue. San Francisco is suppose to be a leader within the gay community. But we are lagging far behind when it comes to bath houses. Just look around you at other major cities.

Steven D. Keller
San Francisco

Get a booger, go to jail

In reference to December 3 article "Teacher sues Fresno over gay sting," if I read this article correctly, Gabriel Morales had been suffering cold and flu-like symptoms several days prior and went to Roeding Park to meet up with some friends on a Tuesday afternoon in November, on a supposedly chilly day. While waiting for those friends, he had to blow his nose, not in public of course, but inside the park restroom.

He engaged a stranger outside the rest room in conversation and in a gesture of friendship offered to show him around the park.

All of this led to his arrest for loitering in a public park for purposes of soliciting a lewd act, a loss of his job, and some really nasty publicity.

Now comes Paul Wotman, in another landmark civil rights case, as all of them are complaining about his client's treatment.

Do Mr. Wotman and Mr. Morales really expect a jury to believe that he was not in the park for purposes of solicitation especially when he admits to not feeling well due to a cold and flu-like symptoms and should have been home in bed rather than out in a park on a chilly day looking for a private place to blow his nose? To the casual observer one might think he might be looking for another body part to blow that is somewhat distant from the front of a face.

These type of arrests are nothing new and will continue as long as gay guidebooks always show rest rooms in department stores and public parks as cruisy and action places. The general public takes a very dim view of gay men who become public nuisances by hanging around rest rooms or even having sex in them.

If Mr. Morales was so concerned about his health, he should have stayed home and taken care of that cold, perhaps even calling the Visiting Nurses Association of Fresno if he were lonely and needed some company. At least they are dependable and caring unlike some abstract friends in the park who seemed not to materialize when most needed.

Andrew Betancourt
San Francisco

[The editor responds: Anyone who did read the article correctly, which you did not, saw clearly that it was not about criminal proceedings, or convincing a jury of anything. A District Attorney was convinced that Morales was not soliciting sex, so all criminal charges were dropped—but only after Morales had already suffered greatly. Our article reported on the civil proceeding that followed. Still, we'd encourage you to follow your own advice and stay at home when your nose is runny... although your worst problem simply seems to be that your nose is just too blue.]

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LETTERS

Pittsburgh lament

By now, most people have heard about the fiasco that occurred in Pittsburgh at the Mr. Pittsburgh Leatherman Contest, an evening of cat fighting, inhospitality and political posturing. If not, check out Mr. Marcus's article "A Tale of Two Cities" [December 10.] The scenes that played out that evening were akin to the ignorant violence portrayed daily on the *Jerry Springer Show*, complete with unbridled name-calling, accusations of conspiracy, and a series of glamorous moments when large bearish men virtually dropped their pants and showed their asses. Like the Springer show, this event has gotten a fair amount of media attention and Internet exposure. It seems everyone loves a good bitch fight.

As co-director of the event – I was in charge of the contestants and staging – I was surprised and devastated by the high drama that ensued that evening. I personally find bitch fighting uninteresting and disturbing when it possesses no constructive point other than raising the self-indignation (and personal agenda) of the participating bitches. Regardless of who said what to whom, who did what to whom – there are multiple versions of what went on that evening – it is clear that a few members of the Pittsburgh Motorcycle Club were completely out of line in their treatment of invited guests, especially International Drummerboy Ryan Goldner. My lover Bruce McKnight and I addressed PMC with a formal letter of outrage over these key participants' behavior, requesting full and honest apology for the inhospitality. Acceptance of the gravity of this responsibility has not been forthcoming, even though PMC President Peter Rapp penned a short apology for misunderstandings. After much grief and struggle, Bruce and I removed and handed in our PMC colors as protest.

We believe there is much more at stake here than the simple ruffled feathers of a few Jerry Springer-like celebrities. This goes to the heart of what we are about as a leather community. We hope there is a lesson in our embarrassment for the whole leather tribe.

Incidents and environments of inhospitality are not unique to Pittsburgh. As we have traveled across the country, we have encountered many scenarios where the political lines of he said, she said have disrupted otherwise good tribal gatherings. We have listened to untold numbers of stories about this group and that group. In dismay, we have watched the wrangling within wider gay organizations like the HRC. And we have wondered, "What ever happened to brother/sisterhood? Is it a myth? Or have we, as a gathering of leather people, gotten off track somewhere?"

In an article in Mark Thompson's *Leatherfolk*, John Preston laments the passing of the early days of the leather scene in America, when leather sexuality was a phenomenon experienced by a few twisted individuals who gathered in secret places to inflict unthinkable pains and pleasures on one another. Yet, within those holy places arose a sense community that could not be codified or manipulated for political purposes. He writes: "When I first encountered a world of S/M people ... the men I met in the dark underworld of S/M were not unwelcome authority figures forced on me in everyday society, but they were men I chose myself. ... Those dynamics were the reasons many of us talked about the transformational and spiritual power of S/M. Those powers came because they were outside the precincts of a society that had been ordered for the sake of civil control."

Preston laments, "What has happened to the borderline world that leathersex and S/M used to define? ... Leathersex has gone the way of all politics, it's lost its edge. ... The magic of trusting one person, a mentor, and of letting those one-on-one bondings spread out until a brotherhood was formed has been [lost]."

At a time when the wider gay community is experiencing unprecedented acceptance and inclusion into polite society, isn't it interesting that many of us are experiencing a loss of a sense of community, that sense of bonding that John Preston remembers with nostalgia? Isn't it interesting that we choose to fight amongst ourselves over turf issues, as though we ever had or needed a turf to be a tribe in the first place? Perhaps in our quest for acceptance, our struggle for public pride, we have misplaced the very fundamental upon which the kink community was grounded, that we are above (or below) politics. Not that politics is unimportant. It is simply not the point of our tribe. It is the backdraft of our anarchy, not the motivator.

With Preston, I lament the loss of that rare sense of community that is possible when tribal people gather unannounced, quietly, and powerfully to affirm their mutual identities. I rage at the machinery of postured alliances. I hope for new beginnings for Pittsburgh, out of the ashes of political suicide. And I hope that our self-induced bondage and self-inflicted pain will help us to somehow remember why we are leather people in the first place. Perhaps this darkness will call forth archetypal memories that will help us to trust one another again and to find the brother/sisterhood that we have lost.

Frank Waugh
Mr. Pittsburgh Leather 1998
Pittsburgh, PA

Nomad as hell

I recall a joke that Tom Ammiano used to tell. It went like this:

"I was on a bus on Haight Street, the only passenger, sitting by myself in the back. The bus stopped, and a loud, abusive drunk got on. I said to myself, 'Please dear God, don't let him sit next to me. Please dear God, don't let him sit next to me.' He walked to the back of the bus, sat down right next to me, and said, 'God told me to sit here.'"

Now flash forward to a few months ago. It was a community meeting in the Haight to discuss the drunken and drugged-out nomads who are trashing the neighborhood. Tom was scheduled to speak, but had not yet appeared. A friend of mine and I arrived early, sitting by ourselves, the only people in the audience. A drunk came in, sat down right next to us, and kept interrupting our conversation. He wouldn't let us alone, so we got up and left. He did too, saying he was going to get "a few more beers." My friend and I later returned. After the meeting was about two-thirds over, Tom eventually showed up. So did the drunk, with another drunk friend. They repeatedly disrupted the proceedings, speaking out of turn. When the police intervened, Tom objected, saying we should listen to what "the homeless" have to say.

At a recent meeting of the Board of Supervisors, Tom voted against a regulation to outlaw drinking in public places (such as the Panhandle) which are now being plagued by public drunks. He denounced the regulation as an attack on "the homeless."

What's wrong with this picture?

Arthur Evans
San Francisco

Write your representative

Current federal law limits "hate crime" protections to those who suffer injury based on race, religion, or national origin. Last year congressional Democrats introduced the Federal Hate Crimes Protection Act, legislation that is supported by President Clinton, that would add disability, gender, and sexual orientation to the list of protected groups.

Among the groups leading the opposition to the legislation is Gary Bauer's Family Research Council. Steven Schwain, an analyst for the group, told the *New York Times* "Hate crimes have nothing to do with perpetrators of violent crimes and everything to do with silencing political opposition. [The legislation] would criminalize pro-family beliefs. This basically sends a message that you can't disagree with the political message of homosexual activists." Another spokesperson for that group, Heather Farish, told the *Washington Times* she thinks the bill is "dangerous" because "it's a thought crime. It's getting into people's head."

The death of gay college student Matthew Shepard had everything to do with perpetuating a hate crime and nothing to do with criminalizing pro-family beliefs. What is dangerous about the position of the Family Research Council is that it sends a message that pro-family beliefs support the religious bigotry that target gays for homophobic attacks. The statement it makes is that basic constitutional protections can be denied on the basis of sexual orientation. With the prevailing religious bigotry preached by television preacher Pat Robertson, Ralph Reed, formerly with the Christian Coalition, and others of the evangelical "born again" faith, homophobia is becoming a predominately acceptable social behavior which is causing increased attacks on gays.

Colorado's Amendment 2, which was found unconstitutional by the Supreme Court, shows the danger of the religious right wing agenda. Pat Robertson's argument for Colorado Amendment 2 refers to basic constitutional guarantees that Americans take for granted to be "special rights" when applied to gays. The legal documentation in that case is evident proof of how religious bigotry supports homophobia and is cause for the stepped up attacks on the rights of gays. Constitutional guarantees should be applied as they were meant to be, to all the people, regardless of race, religion, national origin, disability, gender, or sexual orientation. Homophobia is a condition that makes for hate crimes against gay persons and is promoted by religious bigotry preached in America by evangelicals with a political agenda. This targeting of gays for hate crimes is the reason it is necessary that Congress pass the Federal Hate Crimes Protection Act to add sexual orientation to the list of groups falling within the scope of people needing this protection.

It only takes a moment to sit down and write a letter to your congressperson or senator about the religious bigotry causing hate crimes against gays. Urge their support and passage of the Federal Hate Crimes Protection Act. Timed response is important.

Most of the above information is compiled from *Church & State* (Vol. 5), No. 10, November, 1998 the publication of Americans United for Separation of Church and State. Outside of the ACLU, this is one of the most effective organizations we have for combatting the political agenda of the radical right wing Evangelical movement.

Kepa Cho
Oakland, CA

Impeachment showdown

by Wayne Friday

Because of impending action against Iraq, the U.S. House of Representatives may delay today's planned vote on the impeachment of President **William Jefferson Clinton** (as he is increasingly called, particularly by those who hate him the most). One wonders if this country will ever conclude the process of dislodging the ruler — and I'll leave it up to you whether I mean Clinton or **Saddam Hussein**.

The big difference between the campaign against Saddam and the campaign against Bill is that the former has not moved forward even though it has popular support; that is exactly the opposite of the Clinton situation, which keeps moving forward even though an overwhelming number of the American people do not want the president kicked out of office.

Is this really about Clinton having oral sex with a young White House intern and then lying — perhaps even lying under oath — about it?

To a certain degree it may be about his inability to keep his pants zipped up and his even more annoying inability to tell the truth, but most of this impeachment thing is really about payback — payback for **Clarence Thomas**, payback for the censure of **Newt Gingrich**, even payback for the Democratic-controlled Congress kicking **Richard Nixon** out of office some 25 years ago. Payback — and resentment over the very fact that it was Bill Clinton who turned out a sitting Republican president, one **George Bush**, in 1992 and who overwhelmingly turned back his Republican challenger, **Bob Dole**, in 1996.

True, Clinton has done virtually nothing to help himself out of this sorry mess — the guy would look **God** himself in the eye and lie, but are the Republicans who control the Congress really going to be satisfied if they vote later today or tomorrow to send impeachment articles to the U.S. Senate for a public trial that would likely bring the American government to a virtual standstill for six months to a year? Can we stomach seeing **Monica Lewinsky**, **Linda Tripp**, **Lucianne Goldberg**, and the rest of these wretched people testifying from the floor of the U.S. Senate? God forbid. As this column goes to press we will not yet have learned of Clinton's fate in the House of Representatives; you can bet it will be a close vote, one that could well mean the fate of his presidency.

Personally, I am no longer a fan of this president, but I do hope the House saves us all the torture of passing an impeachment vote on to the Senate. Failing that, and rather than put the country through a prolonged trial that would surely tear the nation apart, I would trust that Clinton would do the honorable thing: resign, and let the Republican Party face the ultimate political payback in 2000: President **Al Gore**, who would likely have a unified and supportive American populace



Bill Clinton: Would you buy a used cigar from this man?

behind him.

One of the brightest and best spoken "stars" of the whole House impeachment television series has to be gay Democratic Representative **Barney Frank** of Massachusetts; even Clinton's detractors will tell you they enjoy watching Frank defend the president. ("What did the president touch, and why did he touch it?" Frank asked last week.)

One interesting local note on this is that East Bay Representative **George Miller** will be in Washington voting against impeachment while lying flat on his back, the popular Democratic congressman is recovering from serious hip-replacement surgery, and his office told the *Bay Area Reporter* this week that his doctors allowed him to make the 3,000 mile trip only while lying down the entire time.

Politics and people

Party time in Sacramento for the Democrats. Those highly sought invites to Governor-elect **Gray Davis**'s inaugural events have begun arriving in the mail for the big donors and some local Demo party regulars are reportedly beginning to worry that theirs haven't arrived. As for all of those Democratic attorneys who have been waiting for nearly two decades to apply for a judgeship, they had better hope they have a contact to **Burt Pines**, the former Los Angeles city attorney who will serve as Davis's judicial appointments secretary; Pines will screen and recommend to Davis candidates for the bench.

After the new state legislators were sworn in last week, Democratic control the Assembly with a 47 to 32 margin and the state Senate by a 25 to 15 margin; incidentally, the legislators received a pay raise, effective immediately, to \$99,000 annually plus perks, and from where I sit, they are still not overpaid. It's not the easiest job in the world, after all.

Overheard last week backstage at the Kennedy Center honors in D.C.: the all-male drag dance troupe Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo, awaiting its cue back stage, heard this from former Secretary of State **Henry Kissinger**, waiting to introduce one of the honorees, actress **Shirley Temple Black**: "Are you ladies on next?" (The drag troupe

says they don't think that Kissinger was joking, as they smiled at each other.)

And also from D.C. I hear from a usually reliable lesbian source who is close to the beltway political scene that NYC Mayor **Rudy Giuliani** is angling for second spot on a GOP national ticket with Governor **George Bush** of Texas, while **Jesse Jackson** is hoping against hope that Al Gore might tap him for the sweep slot in 2000. (It wouldn't be a great idea to bet the farm on that possibility, but he most likely would end up in a Gore cabinet.)

So you thought Newt Gingrich was bad? — How about Representative **Bob Barr**, the Georgia Republican who has replaced the ousted Speaker as the new Republican Party ogre? Last week Mr. Barr — who was behind the "Defense of Marriage Act" to prevent same-sex marriage — was caught cold speaking to the Council of Conservative Citizens, a racist group that warns of the coming extinction of the white race and preaches against interracial marriage. (Congressman Barr, meet **David Duke**...) Interestingly, this guy who is so concerned with others' marriages has, himself, been divorced. Twice so far.

One of my favorite columnists, the *S. J. Mercury's Leigh Weimers* (yes, I know I've called him that before) spotted San Jose's new mayor-elect **Ron Gonzales** pushing a cart around Costaco recently and asks: "Can you imagine San Francisco's **Willie Brown** putting one Gucci-shod foot inside a discount warehouse, and would there even be a Costco on Oakland mayor-elect Jerry Brown's planet?"

Representative **Chris Cox**, a conservative Republican from Orange County, is saying he is "thinking" about seeking his party's nomination against Senator **Dianne Feinstein** in 2000; meanwhile, the "Quote of the Week" has to go to outgoing state Treasurer **Matt Fong**, who was soundly defeated by incumbent Senator **Barbara Boxer**, after trying to have it both ways by kissing up to **Lou Sheldon**'s Traditional Values thugs while back-dooring promises to the gay community at the same time. Fong, being interviewed last week on his future political plans, told reporters he will likely run for office again, but never against Feinstein: "If I thought Barbara Boxer was a tough shot, Dianne Feinstein would be suicide." ▼



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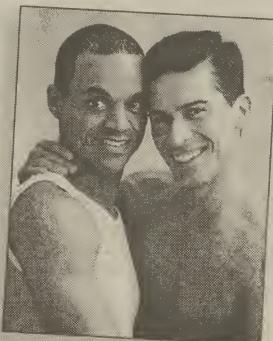
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Family Research Charade

by Liz Tracey, GLAAD publications manager

In the December 5 *New York Times*, columnist Frank Rich writes about the Family Research Council's (FRC) continuous attack on the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community, deflating their rhetoric through good old-fashioned reporting – facts, and more facts.

His column, entitled "The Family Research Charade," opens with a quote from one of Matthew Shepard's assailants, who allegedly taunted him by saying "It's Gay Awareness Week!" Recounting the facts that prosecutors have presented at the arraignments of the two men charged with Shepard's murder, Rich goes on to examine how political religious extremists are backpedaling away from their rhetoric, by claiming that their campaigns to "stigmatize gay people ... have nothing to do with anti-gay crimes." Included in his examples are Trent Lott's egregious comments comparing lesbians and gay men to kleptomaniacs, making Rich one of the few journalists continuing to call Lott on his homophobia. Making the point that most people who "abhor homophobia are themselves Christian, as are most gay Americans."

Rich then brings on FRC, which has now begun to tout the

statistic that "homosexuals are at much greater risk from one another than from bias-related attacks." FRC alleges the same of lesbians, quoting a University of Houston-Downtown study, which seemed to state that 47.5 percent of lesbian relationships involved domestic abuse, while only 0.22 percent of married women were victims. Rich called the woman whose study was used to produce this "fact," who told him that this recent study was based on a non-random sample of gay people she knew, and people who had been referred to her by them. Rich concludes by stating the obvious: using this study as a comparison for any other study would be unsound; any figures derived would be flawed because the methodologies were different, and therefore the numbers were meaningless.

Please thank Rich for his usual, sharp, incisive, and trenchant work, and for helping readers see through the numbers to the truth.

Contact Howell Raines, Editorial/Opinion Page Editor, *New York Times*, 229 West 43rd Street, New York, NY 10036-3959, fax: (212) 556-3690, e-mail: letters@nytimes.com (include phone number when sending e-mail.)

East High low after 'phobes

On December 5, Associated Press reporter Kristen Moulton visited East High School, which was the site almost three years ago of a fight over a gay/straight alliance that led to a ban on all extracurricular clubs at the Salt Lake City school.

Moulton recounts the history, which began with a simple request from a student for a gay/straight alliance, which quickly upset the school board and the Legislature. Rather than be forced to accept the club (under federal guidelines, they cannot discriminate against "unpopular ideas"), they disbanded all extracurricular clubs, including the Young Republicans and Democrats, Students Against Drunk Driving and one for those with interests in UFOs. Moulton writes "Since then, school spirit has evaporated, students don't socialize as much, and class and racial rifts are deeper than ever, say students and teachers at East High." However, through the support of the Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network (GLSEN), the gay/straight alliance survived, meeting in a 6-an-hour rented classroom at East High for one afternoon a week. One other club rents space as well. Young people attending the school have lost the clubs that were founded around diverse racial, ethnic, creative and athletic interests. In the article, they speak to these losses, which seem to send a message from the school "that it's OK to discriminate." Another student says "You see a lot of students roaming through the halls alone. They have nobody to sit with at lunch."

While the school is currently in litigation over the club ban, there seems to be no resolution in sight, leading Moulton to observe that soon the only students who will remember the clubs will be seniors who have graduated. The article closes by quoting a teacher: "The students in general don't

know what they're missing anymore."

Please thank the Associated Press for demonstrating clearly and movingly how a small group of adults, working from intolerance and ignorance, managed to deeply rend the fabric of East High by enacting the school club ban, and giving truth to the adage that "prejudice hurts everyone."

Contact Mr. Bill Beecham, Bureau Chief, Associated Press, 30 East 100 South, Suite 200, Salt Lake City, UT 84111, fax: (801) 322-0051

Denver Post peaks at Hide & Seek

The December 6 edition of the *Denver Post* ran an article on the oldest gay bar in Colorado, called the Hide & Seek. The 27-year-old bar is located in Colorado Springs, which has recently been a battleground for lesbian and gay rights, and is home to religious political extremist groups, including Focus on the Family.

Erin Emery writes of the two local men who opened the bar, Joe Brady and Tom Gehling. The Hide & Seek quickly became an ad hoc community center, where Metropolitan Community Church first held its services for the community, where the gay rodeo association still meets and where the gay Alcoholics Anonymous group met for a time. The bar, once with 75 seats, now takes up an entire block and encompasses five different themes, serving 500 people every weekend night.

Contact Jeanette Chavez, Managing Editor, Denver Post, 1560 Broadway, Denver, CO 80202-5177, fax: (303) 820-1369, e-mail: letters@denverpost.com.

Bergen Record on the family

The *Bergen Record*'s December 6 edition contained a lengthy article on lesbian and gay families with children, written by Ruth Pawader. The article profiles Ann McQuinn and Terry McKeon, a lesbian and a gay man, who have had three children together, share a home and raise their seven-year-old twins and nine-year-old with Ann's partner, Joyce Weeg.

The writer explores how this family illustrates options for gay men and lesbians, wish to have children, but don't want to raise them as single parents. Pawader speaks at length to Ray Drew as well, who is the executive director of Family Pride Coalition, the national organization of LGBT parents (formerly Gay & Lesbian Parents Coalition International). Drew estimates there are approximately two million lesbian or gay parents in America, who are raising three to five million children.

The portrait of this family is one of depth and warmth, both exploring the way in which McKeon and McQuinn decided to come together, both wanting children; and the legal and financial complexities in raising three children in a three adult household. In addition, the children's experiences are covered sensitively and with common sense.

Please thank the *Bergen Record* for this intelligent, insightful look at the changing nature of families, and the importance of each one, in its own way.

Contact Vivian Waixel, Editor, The Record, 150 River Street, Hackensack, NJ 07601-7156, fax: (201) 646-4310 ▼

Les women, DES girls

by Simon LeVay, Ph.D.

Between 1938 and 1971, several million pregnant women in the U.S.A. were given the drug diethylstilbestrol (DES), a synthetic and very potent estrogen-like hormone. It was prescribed for women who were at risk for miscarriage although, as we now know, it is not effective for that purpose and may in fact promote miscarriage. Administration of the drug to pregnant women was halted when it was found that it caused serious health problems for some of the female children born to those pregnancies. About one in a thousand of these girls, when they reached young adulthood, developed a cancer of the cervix or vagina (clear cell adenocarcinoma) that is normally very rare in that age group. Others have had fertility problems, and some have anatomical abnormalities of the reproductive tract whose significance is uncertain.

The DES saga was a medical catastrophe. But it was also an unintentional experiment: what would be the effect of exposing the brains of developing fetuses to a powerful estrogen? The consequences have been studied by Anke Ehrhardt and a number of her colleagues at Columbia University in New York. In males who were exposed to DES as fetuses, they found no significant effects of any kind. In four different groups of DES-exposed women, however, Ehrhardt found a higher prevalence of bisexuality and homosexuality, compared with comparison groups of women who were not exposed. Statistically, it was a highly significant effect, but it was not a large effect: the majority of the DES-exposed women were in fact heterosexual.

At first glance, Ehrhardt's findings are unexpected. If DES is an estrogen - a "female" hormone - why should it drive psychosexual development in a "male-typical" direction? The answer probably has to do with a peculiarity of brain chemistry. In the typical development of a male fetus, the brain is directed to develop in a male direction by testosterone coming from the fetus's testes. This masculinization is partly a direct action of testosterone, but it also depends in part on the conversion of testosterone to estrogen in the brain. The resulting estrogen has further masculinizing effects, and it is these effects that are mimicked by DES.



Queer
Science

DES may influence more than sexual orientation. Four studies, including a recent one by Laurel Smith and Melissa Hines of the City University of London, have reported that DES-exposed women are more likely to be left-handed or mixed-handed than other women. This is of some interest, because the same thing has been reported for lesbians and bisexual women. In addition, one study has reported that DES-exposed women, during childhood, are atypical in some traits - for example in being less interested than other girls in doll play - but these findings have not been confirmed in other studies.

Whatever the effects of DES, they are quite small compared with the effects seen in women who were exposed to testosterone-like hormones during fetal life - for example, women with the syndrome of congenital adrenal hyperplasia. Those women are much more atypical in their childhood characteristics and in their adult sexual orientation. This supports the notion that the masculinizing effect of testosterone on the fetal brain is twofold: in part a direct effect of the hormone, and in part a secondary effect resulting from its conversion to estrogen.

Lesbians and bisexual women who were DES-exposed during fetal life may wonder whether their sexual orientation is a consequence of their DES exposure. The numbers suggest that it could have been a contributing factor, but not a large one. Most DES-exposed women are heterosexual, so

other factors - genetic predisposition, life experiences, or outright choice - probably play a more significant role.

It's important for DES-exposed women to be familiar with the possible health effects of their exposure and to make sure their doctors are too. As the population of DES-exposed women enters middle age, there is some concern about the possible occurrence of new kinds of health problems. DES Action USA (www.desaction.org) is the place for more information on this topic. It should be kept in mind, however, that the majority of exposed women have suffered no adverse consequences from their exposure.

The history of DES reminds us of the potential hazards of new drugs - hazards that may not show themselves for many years. The current trend toward more rapid approval of new drugs, sparked in part by AIDS activists, is bringing many benefits, but also carries serious risks. Pregnant women in particular need to be cautious about every pill they swallow. ▶

Simon LeVay, Ph.D., is well known for his research on the "gay brain." He is author of *The Sexual Brain*, *City of Friends* (with Elisabeth Nonas), *Queer Science*, and the novel *Albrick's Gold*. For more Queer Science columns, visit www.gay.net. Contact LeVay at SLeVay@aol.com, or visit his home page, <http://members.aol.com/slevay>.

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'The case of the case' caught on video

by Ron McGlashan

Thursday, December 10, 10 a.m., 1800 block of Sutter: A customer at a local hotel was unknowingly a star for a security camera located in the lobby. The victim was talking on the phone in the lobby of the hotel when a man entered and asked employees how to get to Oakland. The security video showed the suspect walking up to the victim and asking the same questions as the man spoke on the phone. The camera also recorded the man leaving the lobby with the victim's suitcase. The suspect was picked up and taken into custody.

Oh, crap, I'm on camera!

Thursday, December 10, 8:30 p.m., Turk and Van Ness: The man known as Perry who sits at the intersection of Turk and Van Ness



was taken into custody on December 10 on a rather fascinating charge. He was caught on security tape smearing dog droppings on the windows of the Rose Bowl Florist. His partner in crime was his faithful sidekick Ralph, a Jack Russell terrier. The residents of the building had been trying to have Perry removed from the area for some time, but had no luck until the evidence surfaced that he was trying to fertilize the plants through the window.

Assault on Eddy last week

Sunday, December 6, 2 p.m., 600 Block of Eddy Street: A man let his old roommate return to his residence to retrieve some belongings. When the roommate arrived drunk, the owner told him to leave as soon as possible. According to the owner, the suspect then attacked and attempted to strangle him. The police ar-

rived and a report was made. The victim can identify the suspect, and the police are on the lookout.

Assault on Eddy this week

Saturday, December 12 1:30 p.m., Eddy and Buchanan: A man called police to report he was struck in the face, but the suspect was not found at the time of the incident. The victim, who suffered extensive damage to his jaw, identified the suspect via a photo lineup. The suspect's probation will be revoked because the victim followed through and cooperated with investigating officers.

Robber gets blunt

Sunday, December 6, 5:45 p.m., O'Farrell and Larkin: A man walking at the intersection of O'Farrell and Larkin was struck across the head with a blunt object and robbed. The victim said that he knelt to the ground as he was hit, at which point the suspect took all of his money. Police and paramedics were called to the scene, and a report was made. No suspect was found.

Car partings

A number of vehicles damaged in the Polk Street area can be attributed to simple malicious mischief. A number of car owners have returned to their vehicles to find them vandalized. Damage ranges from heavy scratches to the removal of some parts of the vehicles.

News flash: prostitutes on Polk!

In the past week a total of eight people have been taken into custody on prostitution-related charges. Lieutenant Larry Barsetti says that anyone caught in the act of soliciting, whether male, female, transvestite, or transsexual, will be arrested on the spot and booked. If a person is caught in an area that is known for prostitution-related activity and gives officers reason to believe that he or she is soliciting, this makes the person eligible for charges of loitering with intent. A good example would be the person who steps into traffic to flag down a vehicle in a high-prostitution traffic area. ▼

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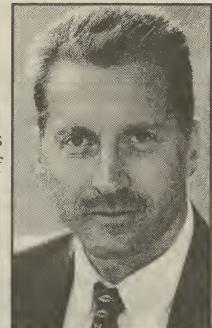
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Dr. Kelly is the former manager of the HIV Neurobehavioral Research Center at University of California, San Diego.



BAY AREA REPORTER



Designer doses: Blue Nitro and the pleasure principle

by Mark Norby

One day after community sex and head shops in San Francisco's gay neighborhoods received samples of a concoction marketed as a legal alternative to illicit drugs, a Castro shop reported an overdose last Tuesday, December 8 and a man wound up at San Francisco General Hospital in a comatose state.

Nutrition City Network, Inc. markets the liquid under the commercial name Blue Nitro "Vitality," which is just being introduced to the Bay Area but has been available for about nine months at more than 100 stores nationwide. The company website claims that it produces effects similar to a popular party drug, Gamma Hydroxy Butyrate acid (GHB), and that the high is "better than E! [ecstasy]."

"Blue Nitro produces exactly the same effect as GHB, guaranteed," the company's sales representative James Lindsey told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "And the best thing about it is you won't go to jail for possessing it."

The pursuit of a safe "higher" state of mind has led companies like Nutrition City Network to manufacture and market legal, like alternatives to illegal and often harmful substances sold on the streets. But "safe" and "legal" are relative to substance abuse and

federal drug agencies, and Blue Nitro has just now caught the attention of drug officials.

"This is not a new product," says Al Abramowitz, epidemiologist at San Francisco's Community Substance Abuse Services. "We've seen a lot of products like this that try to imitate GHB. But the point is, GHB is harmful, even deadly. Blue Nitro is related because it is Gamma Butyl Lactone (GBL), which is a paint solvent, also found in GHB. GBL is actually the precursor to GHB. There are a lot of risks involved in using products like this."

According to the company, the liquid is actually good for users. Lindsey told the *B.A.R.* that "Blue Nitro metabolizes into GHB and gives you all the benefits of GHB. Bodybuilders use it to build muscle like GHB. It also blocks fat. The body experiences deep rejuvenating sleep from Blue Nitro, and this can be good for people who are HIV-positive."

"I use it for sex," he continued. "You can stay hard for hours on it. It's a great stimulant like GHB and E and a lot of other popular drugs. And the sex is great."

"But people should know that the tolerance build-up is not as fast as other drugs. One dose every two hours is all you should take."

The label warns that "excessive doses may result in sweating, muscle spasms, vomiting, bedwetting, and diarrhea." However, the

company's literature says, "Blue Nitro is fundamentally non-toxic. Unlike alcohol, it causes no general toxicity or organ toxicity as it clearly and quickly metabolizes to carbon dioxide and water within three to six hours."

Unbuttoned, unconscious

Several stores in the Castro that received samples of Blue Nitro also reported flyers on the windshields of cars advertising the product. The man who was removed from the Castro shop last week is now out of the hospital. Only his first name, Steve, is known and he could not be reached for comment.

One source told the *Bay Area Reporter* the man "saw the Blue Nitro literature laying on the counter. He told the clerk that he was horny and wanted something to make him even more horny. He then ingested the sample bottle, all two ounces of it," or four times the recommended dose.

"He unbuttoned his jeans, then threw up on himself and passed out cold. We called an ambulance and the paramedics took him to the hospital."

Lindsey said the man "probably combined it with other drugs or alcohol. The only risk involved is not following the directions."

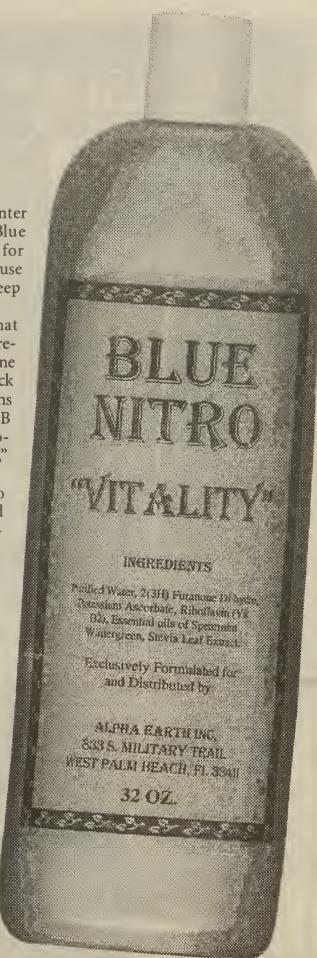
The company also states that the product is safe as long as it is not combined with alcohol, cocaine, heroine, and other drugs

including over-the-counter medicines, and that Blue Nitro can even be good for HIV-positive persons because the product induces deep sleep.

Abramowitz claims that "there have been deaths related to GBL. If you combine it with alcohol it will knock you on your ass. The deaths that are reported from GHB consumption could hypothetically have been GBL," he said.

To date GHB has led to 32 deaths nationwide and over 3,500 cases of overdose; 80 percent of the fatalities were found to have combined GHB with alcohol, Abramowitz said.

Abramowitz also countered Lindsey's claims of prolonged sexual stimulation with a warning. "There is a definite risk of HIV infection with any type of prolonged sexual encounter. The risk of a condom breaking is greater because you're going to it longer," he said. "Just like with crystal or other drugs. Just the act of being exposed to one or many sex partners during a high is an HIV risk in itself." ▼



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Raising The Bar on Castro

by Ed Walsh

With searchlights outside and fancy-shmancy hors d'oeuvres inside, they rang out the old and rang in the new a few days early on Castro Street. On Friday, December 11, a new bar was born. But not just any bar. "The Bar on Castro" was resurrected on the site of the old Castro Station, between Market and 18th streets.

What a difference a lot of remodeling has made! Fans of the landmark Castro Station won't recognize the old girl: only the DJ station remains somewhat intact.

The Castro Station closed its doors for the last time on Halloween after more than 20 years in business. Its new owners, Greg Bronstein and Morgan Gorrono, worked 16-hour days for six weeks gutting Castro Station's decor. The partners sold and gave away much of the memorabilia to Castro Station's regulars, and still managed to fill four dumpsters.

"I went to the paint store at least 30 times," said Bronstein. "We had to paint it four times because we made mistakes. When we painted it the first time we painted over some holes we patched and forgot to re-prime so we had to start over."

They refinished the walls and ceilings and installed sofas and tables to create an upscale lounge feel. But Bronstein says he hopes that won't discourage anyone from coming in. "It looks beautiful, but at the same time it's very comfortable and the drinks are at a very good price. It's not a place you have to dress up to go. Come in shorts, come in jeans, come in a tank top, or whatever."

Gorrono added that he hopes the atmosphere will be laid back but also "cruisy, somewhere where boys and girls can both go and hang out and enjoy dance music."

Gorrono, 39, is the former manager of the popular Market Street bar The Cafe, and worked to create that bar from its incep-



RICK GERHART

Behind bars: Co-owners Greg Bronstein and Morgan Gorrono in front of their new bar, The Bar on Castro, on opening night.

tion seven years ago. Gorrono is proud of the integration of the sexes that he helped establish at The Cafe. "The whole concept of mixing gays and lesbians hadn't been done before, or very little of it." Although it won't have a dance floor, Gorrono hopes The Bar on Castro will have the "same energy and values" as The Cafe.

Gorrono acknowledges that although no gay bar owner could ask for better foot traffic than on Castro Street, keeping a business afloat is always a little scary, particularly when faced with sky-high rent. "You have to work hard to make a dollar," he told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "People see you're busy, but all the money that goes into the register has to pay a lot of bills and help keep up the inventory. It's tough."

Just the beginning?

Bronstein, 35, recently purchased Pozole Cafe, another well known Castro area business, where renovations are slated for February. Bronstein said his plans for the Market Street restaurant include keeping the Pozole name but introducing an "upgraded" menu.

For Bronstein, starting two businesses means "you're always a

bit nervous but once you get over the fear you have to make the decision whether to go for it. Once you go for it you don't look back and do everything you can to make it successful." The two businesses do have similarities beyond their proximity. For one thing, Pozole's employees and the bartenders at The Bar on Castro look a lot alike – mostly male, hunky, and in tight T-shirts. For opening night, the employees all wore their more formal attire: black T-shirts.

Bronstein sees The Bar on Castro as part of the neighborhood's evolution. "There are a lot of new restaurants and other places in the Castro, but the bars haven't changed that much over the past few years," he said. "This will be the first wave and hopefully people will enjoy it as that."

Although the sale of the Castro Station may have created a wave, the pending sale of another landmark bar, Badlands, will barely create a ripple. Its regulars will be happy to hear that Patio Cafe owner Les Natali told the B.A.R. he expects to close escrow on Badlands by February, and except for minor upgrades he'll keep it pretty much the same. ▼

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Vandal smashes Castro window, windshield

by Mark Norby

Several Castro residents and visitors called 911 around 9:30 p.m. Thursday, December 10 to report a white male adult jumping up and down on a patrol car. After smashing the windshield, the man kicked out a window at All American Boy, according to witnesses.

According to Officer Jane Warner, with the San Francisco Patrol Special Police, whose patrol car had been parked at the

Chevron station at Market and Castro, the car suffered a dented roof in addition to the smashed windshield.

Morgan Gorrono, owner of The Bar on Castro (formerly the Castro Station), trailed the man down 18th Street past the 7-Eleven, and responding police arrested him at 9:40 p.m. The suspect, identified as 27-year-old Joshua La Femme, was taken to San Francisco General Hospital and held pending a mental evaluation.

According to Warner, La

Femme had been previously arrested and convicted of vandalism and held by police on a 5150 charge, a 72-hour arrest and mental evaluation procedure for public disorderly conduct and violent behavior.

"I am very grateful," Warner told the *Bay Area Reporter*, "to all the people of the Castro who responded with calls to 911. Tim Oviatt, the owner of All American Boy, is also very pleased at the response from the community. Many people came forward and left their names and numbers as witnesses. Our many thanks." ▼



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Burned Cookie

by Cynthia Laird

Early detection prevented major damage, but Hot Cookie in the Castro is temporarily closed, due to a fire that swept through the business during the early morning hours of Monday, December 7. Owner Dan Glazer told the Bay Area Reporter that he's saddened about the loss, but said the store will be back to serving up fresh-baked cookies as soon as possible.

"I don't know how long it will take," Glazer said from his home, "but we will re-open."

There were no injuries reported during the blaze, which broke out at about 4 a.m. People at Orphan Andy's restaurant and Twin Peaks bar called 911, and someone called Glazer at home to alert him to the fire. Soon, he said, there were dozens of firefighters battling the blaze at 407 Castro Street. Glazer had nothing but praise for their efforts, saying they did an "amazing" job.

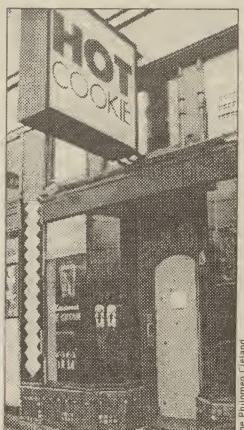
Lieutenant Ed Campbell with the San Francisco Fire Department said the single alarm blaze caused an estimated \$30,000 in damage. There were about 25 firefighters on the scene.

Firefighters had a little luck too, Glazer said; apparently a water pipe beneath the store melted from the heat, spraying water that helped extinguish the blaze.

Officer Jane Warner of the San Francisco Patrol Special Police, a group some merchants have hired to provide additional security for the Castro, reported that neighboring residences were evacuated. "These buildings are all made of wood here," Glazer pointed out.

Warner and Glazer also said preliminary information indicates the fire was not arson, although the exact cause has not been determined. Campbell said the cause was most likely due to discarded smoking materials. The fire started in the basement.

Glazer said he doesn't have



After the burn: Hot Cookie closed temporarily due to fire.
Jane Philpot/Cleand

damage estimates yet, but is working with his insurance company. He had few words to describe his loss, noting the holiday season is a big chunk of his business.

"I'm looking forward to the re-opening," said Glazer. "There will be a few small changes."

Glazer opened Hot Cookie about two years ago, replacing the Double Rainbow ice cream store that had been a Castro fixture for nearly two decades. ▼

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- 80% were rated as improved by clinical doctors (vs. 47% with placebo).
- Most men reported an increase in the amount of hair, a decrease in hair loss, and improvement in appearance.

*Based on vertex studies at 24 months of men 18 to 41 with mild to moderate hair loss.

Scientists have recently discovered that men with male pattern hair loss have an increased level of DHT in their scalps. PROPECIA blocks the formation of DHT and, in this way, appears to interrupt a key factor in the development of inherited male pattern hair loss in men. Importantly, PROPECIA helps grow natural hair—not just peach fuzz—and is as convenient to take as a vitamin: one pill a day.

For men who want to maintain and even increase hair count, today is a most exciting day. **Talk to your doctor.**

Only a doctor can determine if PROPECIA is right for you. PROPECIA is for **men only**. Further, women who are or may potentially be pregnant must not use PROPECIA and should not handle crushed or broken tablets because of the risk of a specific kind of birth defect. (See accompanying Patient Information for details.) PROPECIA tablets are coated and will prevent contact with the active ingredient during normal handling.

You may need to take PROPECIA daily for three months or more to see visible results. PROPECIA may not regrow all your hair. And if you stop using this product, you will gradually lose the hair you have gained. There is not sufficient evidence that PROPECIA works for recession at the temporal areas. If you haven't seen results after 12 months of using PROPECIA, further treatment is unlikely to be of benefit.

Like all prescription products, PROPECIA may cause side effects. A very small number of men experienced certain side effects, such as: less desire for sex, difficulty in achieving an erection, and a decrease in the amount of semen. Each of these side effects occurred in less than 2% of men. These side effects were reversible and went away in men who stopped taking PROPECIA. They also disappeared in most men (58%) who continued taking PROPECIA.

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Bisexuals counter 'ex-gay' ads

by Liz Highleyman

On December 1, a coalition of bisexual organizations launched an ad campaign to counter the "ex-gay" conversion ads put out by the religious right. The response campaign was spearheaded by the national bisexual advocacy group BiNet USA, the magazine *Anything That Moves*, and Boston's Bisexual Resource Center.

The "ex-gay" ads, sponsored by the Christian Coalition, the Family Research Council, and other organizations, appeared in several national newspapers this summer, and conversion proponents have recently begun a campaign to run similar ads on television. The original ads implied that sexual orientation had an environmental basis, and could be changed through conversion therapy. A previous response ad, sponsored by the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), countered that people are born gay or lesbian.

The activists who organized the new ad campaign claim that both the religious right and the HRC have oversimplified the issue of sexual orientation, which may be fluid and is not always easily definable as either strictly homosex-

ual or strictly heterosexual. In the words of the ad, "The truth is, human sexuality is far richer and more multifaceted than we're taught to believe. The truth is that neither science, nor politics, nor religion can yet define the genesis of sexual orientation. Most likely each of us is a complex mix of nature and nurture." According to Riki Ann Wilkins, executive director of GenderPAC, "The current national debate has been dumbed down to a question of whether people's sexuality is fixed at birth or can be changed through brainwashing. ... Real life is more complicated than that. Whole populations have been excluded from the current whitewashed dialogue, and we want to bring them back into the discussion."

The ad suggests that many so-called "ex-gays" may in fact be bisexual. "As bisexuals, we have a unique perspective on the debate about supposed 'cures' for homosexuality," said Lani Ka'ahumanu, a founding member of BiNet USA. "Most of the people who 'convert' to heterosexuality through these programs admit that they still have same-sex attractions. Many of these people are undoubtedly bisexual, but have chosen opposite-sex relationships for the time being."

The ad goes on to emphasize that whether sexual desire is inborn or socially determined, people of all orientations deserve the right to love who they choose, to be treated with respect and dignity, and to be free from violence and discrimination.

Several national and international organizations signed onto the ad, including the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force; the Gay

and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation; GenderPAC; FTM International; the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network; the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission; LLEGO, the National Latina/o Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Organization; the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum; the National Center for Lesbian Rights; and Parents,

Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays.

The originators of the response ad are encouraging activists nationwide to ask their local media to run the ad. ▼

For more information, see the website www.anythingthatmoves.com or call BiNet USA at (202) 986-7186.

Psychiatrists rule against converting gays

United Press International

Twenty-five years after psychiatrists determined that homosexuality is not a disease, they have ruled that therapy aimed at "converting" gay people to heterosexuality is destructive and dangerous.

In new guidelines, the American Psychiatric Association (APA) says such treatment — called reparative therapy — should be avoided.

The APA's governing 30-member board of trustees unanimously adopted the position statement Friday, December 11. The vote came in response to increasing pressure from fundamentalist religious

groups that consider homosexuality a "curable disease," Dr. Nada Stotland, a Chicago psychiatrist and member of the board, said.

The position states that reparative therapy runs the risk of harming gays by causing depression, anxiety, and self-destructive behaviors, including suicide. The APA's stance is in full agreement with the position of the American Psychological Association, which said last year that homosexuality is not a mental disorder.

The American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Association of Social Workers both have taken similar positions against "conversion" therapy. Stotland, of the Rush Medical College in Chicago

told United Press International that the position statement was deemed necessary because some mental health professionals "do offer treatment aimed at changing peoples' sexual orientation."

"There was a feeling among psychiatrists who are especially knowledgeable about homosexuality that we needed to take an official position about so-called reparative therapy," she said.

The psychiatric group removed homosexuality as a mental disorder from the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders in 1973 after reviewing evidence showing homosexuality did not fit the necessary criterion to be categorized as a mental illness. But Stotland said the new statement was needed because of increasing allegations that homosexuality can be "cured."

"There is no published scientific evidence supporting the efficacy of reparative therapy as a treatment to change one's sexual orientation," APA said.

On the contrary, Stotland told UPI, most scientific research strongly suggests homosexuality is biological in nature, and that "people are born this way."

She said there is no evidence that homosexuality is a disease, and no evidence that sexual orientation can be changed.

"Some people are able to change their behavior, but that's different from changing sexual orientation," she said. "Why even try to change if it's not a disease?"

She said some conservative politicians recently have urged reparative therapy, "and the issue is getting more press. These comments make some homosexual people feel they are flawed, which causes stress, anxiety and feelings of self doubt. People are told that an important aspect of their being is unnatural and diseased, and it's very easy to imagine how awful that would make someone feel."

The psychiatrist group's ruling follows the October 12 death of Matthew Shepard, a gay 21-year-old University of Wyoming student, after a severe beating in Laramie, Wyoming. Police contend he was beaten because he was gay, and the case made national headlines.

The Christian Coalition, Focus on the Family and the Family Research Council started a national advertising campaign before Shepard's death urging gays to try to convert to heterosexuality.

The psychiatrists' statement said that "many patients who have undergone 'reparative therapy' relate that they were inaccurately told that homosexuals are lonely, unhappy individuals who never achieve acceptance or satisfaction. The possibility that the person might achieve happiness and satisfying interpersonal relationships as a gay man or lesbian is not presented."

Stotland said up to 10 percent of Americans are gay, and the figure could be higher. ▼

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What is PROPECIA used for?

PROPECIA is used for the treatment of male pattern hair loss on the vertex and the anterior mid-scalp area.

PROPECIA is for use by MEN ONLY and should NOT be used by women or children.

What is male pattern hair loss?

Male pattern hair loss is a common condition in which men experience thinning of the hair on the scalp. Often, this results in a receding hairline and/or balding on the top of the head. These changes typically begin gradually in men in their 20s. Doctors believe male pattern hair loss is due to heredity and is dependent on hormonal effects. Doctors refer to this type of hair loss as androgenetic alopecia.

Results of clinical studies:

For 12 months, doctors studied over 1800 men aged 18 to 41 with mild to moderate amounts of ongoing hair loss. All men, whether receiving PROPECIA or placebo (a pill containing no medication) were given a medicated shampoo (Neutrogena T/Gel™ Shampoo). Of these men, approximately 1200 with hair loss at the top of the head were studied for an additional 12 months. In general, men who took PROPECIA maintained or increased the number of visible scalp hairs and noticed improvement in their hair in the first year, with the effect maintained in the second year. Hair counts in men who did not take PROPECIA continued to decrease.

In one study, patients were questioned on the growth of body hair. PROPECIA did not appear to affect hair in places other than the scalp.

Will PROPECIA work for me?

For most men, PROPECIA increases the number of scalp hairs, helping to fill in thin or balding areas of the scalp. Men taking PROPECIA noted a slowing of hair loss during two years of use. Although results will vary, generally you will not be able to grow back all of the hair you have lost. There is not sufficient evidence that PROPECIA works in the treatment of receding hairline in the temporal area on both sides of the head.

Male pattern hair loss occurs gradually over time. On average, healthy hair grows only about half an inch each month. Therefore, it will take time to see any effect.

You may need to take PROPECIA daily for three months or more before you see a benefit from taking PROPECIA. PROPECIA can only work over the long term if you continue taking it. If the drug has not worked for you in twelve months, further treatment is unlikely to be of benefit. If you stop taking PROPECIA, you will likely lose the hair you have gained within 12 months of stopping treatment. You should discuss this with your doctor.

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- Take one tablet by mouth each day.
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- Anyone allergic to any of the ingredients.

A warning about PROPECIA and pregnancy.

- Women who are or may potentially be pregnant:

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— should not handle crushed or broken tablets of PROPECIA.

If a woman who is pregnant with a male baby absorbs the active ingredient in PROPECIA, either by swallowing or through the skin, it may cause abnormalities of a male baby's sex organs. If a woman who is pregnant comes into contact with the active ingredient in PROPECIA, a doctor should be consulted. PROPECIA tablets are coated and will prevent contact with the active ingredient during normal handling, provided that the tablets are not broken or crushed.

What are the possible side effects of PROPECIA?

Like all prescription products, PROPECIA may cause side effects. In clinical studies, side effects from PROPECIA were uncommon and did not affect most men. A small number of men experienced certain sexual side effects. These men reported one or more of the following: less desire for sex; difficulty in achieving an erection; and, a decrease in the amount of semen. Each of these side effects occurred in less than 2% of men. These side effects went away in men who stopped taking PROPECIA. They also disappeared in most men who continued taking PROPECIA.

The active ingredient in PROPECIA is also used by older men at a five-times higher dose to treat enlargement of the prostate. Some of these men reported other side effects, including problems with ejaculation, breast swelling and/or tenderness and allergic reactions such as lip swelling and rash. In clinical studies with PROPECIA, these side effects occurred as often in men taking placebo as in those taking PROPECIA.

Tell your doctor promptly about these or any other unusual effects.

- PROPECIA can affect a blood test called PSA (Prostate-Specific Antigen) for the screening of prostate cancer. If you have a PSA test done, you should tell your doctor that you are taking PROPECIA.

Storage and handling.

Keep PROPECIA in the original container and keep the container closed. Store it in a dry place at room temperature. PROPECIA tablets are coated and will prevent contact with the active ingredient during normal handling, provided that the tablets are not broken or crushed.

Do not give your PROPECIA tablets to anyone else. It has been prescribed only for you. Keep PROPECIA and all medications out of the reach of children.

THIS LEAFLET PROVIDES A SUMMARY OF INFORMATION ABOUT PROPECIA. IF AFTER READING THIS LEAFLET YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR ARE NOT SURE ABOUT ANYTHING, ASK YOUR DOCTOR.

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 Propecia™
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United boycott

◀ page 1

HRC's David M. Smith was among several speakers at the Monday afternoon news conference, joining EBA members Jeff Sheehy, Geoff Kors, and Carol Stuart, plus Supervisors Mark Leno, Leslie Katz, and board president-elect Tom Ammiano.

"All we are asking for is equal treatment," Leno said.

Said Kors, "Every time someone flies United, a portion of their ticket price is used to fund United's lawsuit to overturn San Francisco's equal benefits ordinance."

As part of its involvement, HRC is paying for advertising and asking its 250,000 members to participate in the boycott. Smith and Sheehy said there are three points to the boycott and both groups realize that because of United's major presence at SFO, many people have no choice but to fly the airline, one of the largest employers in the Bay Area. Additionally, many travelers have already purchased airline tickets as the holiday season is in full swing.

Nevertheless, boycott organizers are asking that people, particularly those in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community, observe the following:

- Where a customer has a choice (and choice may be driven by price, use of frequent flyer points, or availability of other flights), customers should try to fly another airline.

- If no choice exists, EBA requests the customer take the opportunity to educate United and the public by wearing a button or sticker expressing their support of

the boycott.

- If United withdraws its lawsuit, the boycott is over.

"HRC stands with Equal Benefits Advocates and endorses a national boycott of United," said Smith. "We want to send a message to United."

United did not return calls from the Bay Area Reporter.

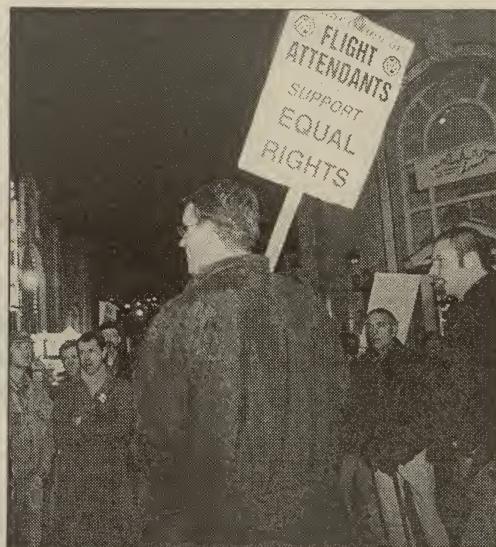
United with Pat Robertson

Although the suit against the city was originally brought by the Air Transport Association (ATA), earlier this year United filed suit in its own name to avoid offering the benefits Wilken outlined in her ruling. In October, Wilken granted United's request for a preliminary injunction, meaning the status quo will be maintained at least until January, when the city will argue for a summary judgment in an effort to get the airline to comply with parts of the ordinance that were upheld by Wilken in April.

Wilken's ruling followed a hearing in federal court in Oakland, where both sides argued their respective points. United complained that implementing the city's equal benefits ordinance would be too costly, as several computer systems would have to be reprogrammed, while the city argued that the cost is not enough to meet the burden of being an unreasonable cost.

At that hearing, United aligned itself with the Pat Robertson-backed American Center for Law and Justice (ACLU), which has also filed suit against the city over the law.

While no U.S.-based air carrier offers benefits to domestic partners of employees, United's active fighting of the city's law by



United against United; picketers protested on December 8, undeterred by the day's power outage.

pursuing the lawsuit and aligning itself with the ACLU was the reason for singling out the airline.

HRC Executive Director Elizabeth Birch, who was not at the news conference, issued a statement that criticized United's stance on fighting the equal benefits ordinance. "We have rarely seen anything so appalling in over a decade of gay and lesbian workplace organizing. It is particularly unconscionable that this airline is fighting bereavement leave for their employees. Clearly, United has redefined corporate irresponsibility and they ought to fasten

their seat belts, because they should expect a great deal of turbulence in the upcoming months caused by this unfair treatment of gays and lesbians."

Katz said, "Actions speak louder than words and United's actions clearly demonstrate their willingness to end blatant discriminatory practices. United Airlines is being disingenuous when they say that their opposition is due solely to the airline's desire to not be subject to local regulation. If this were the case, United would simply go ahead and offer the health benefits which Judge

Wilken specifically excluded United from having to provide."

Sheehy read from a copy of a declaration from Kevin Lum, president of the Master Executive Council of the Association of Flight Attendants AFL-CIO (AFA) at United; he's worked as a flight attendant at the airline since 1979. In the court document, Lum stated that in September 1997, he received a phone call from United executives. They informed him that one of United's competitors was about to extend domestic partner benefits and that Gerald Greenwald, United's chief executive officer, wanted to "match" that program within "hours." Lum was asked if AFA would have a problem with that and he replied AFA would have "no problem" with that.

"I even urged that United give the domestic partner benefits even if not in response to a competitive situation," stated Lum. For whatever reason, that didn't happen — neither the competing airline nor United offer the benefits.

Smith said HRC's board of directors voted to endorse the boycott. Asked if the move was in response to HRC's decision to endorse New York Republican Senator Alfonse D'Amato over his Democratic rival Representative Charles Schumer in last month's election, Smith laughed and said "No." HRC has been deluged with complaints from the LGBT community over the political endorsement, and Schumer won the senate seat. ▼

Buttons and stickers will be available at Tuesday's rally or people can call (415) 821-2217,

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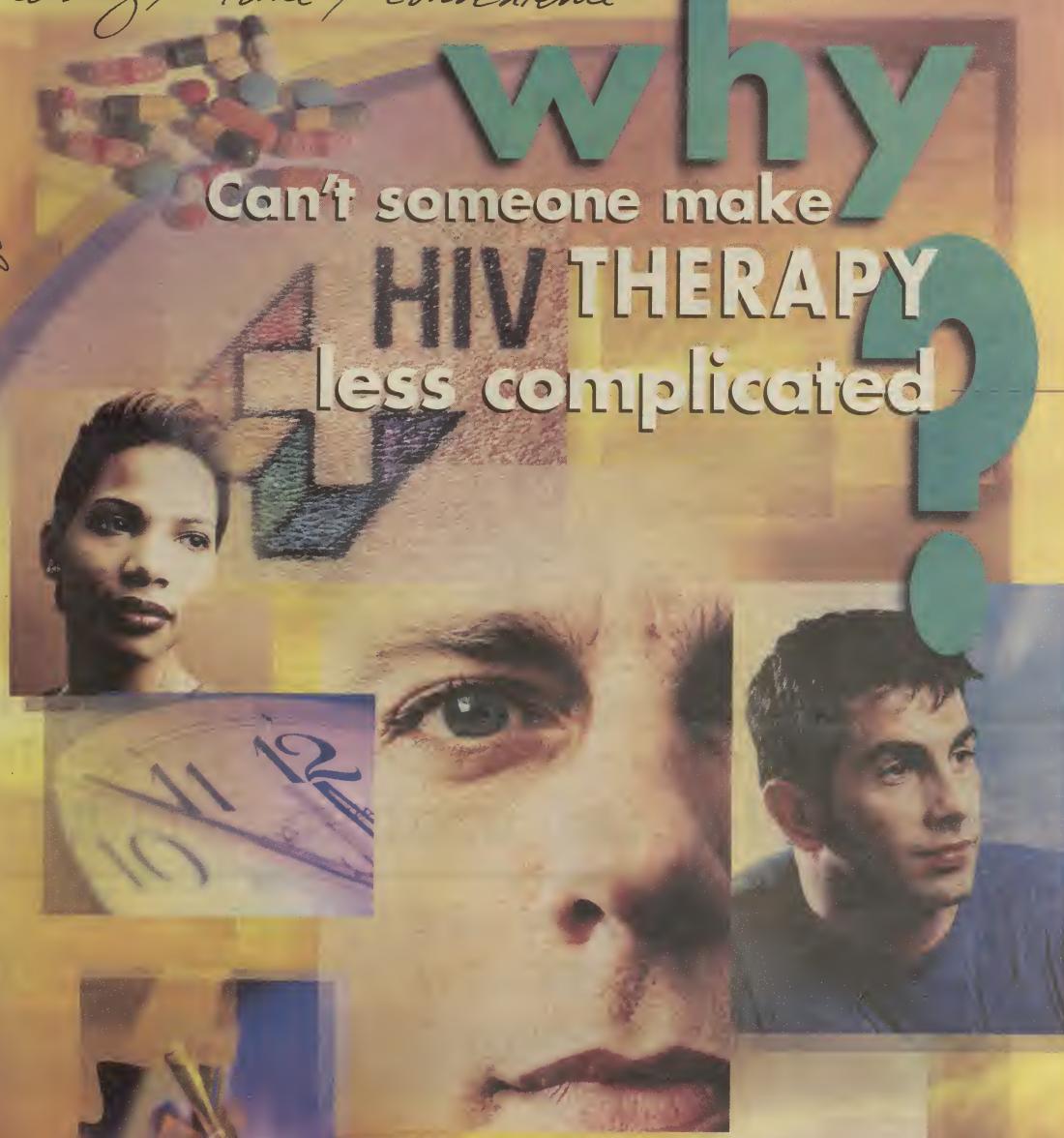
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New SUSTIVA[®] is the first HIV drug approved to be taken once-a-day as part of your combination therapy. Just take three 200 mg capsules together once daily, with or without food; high fat meals should be avoided. Your doctor may suggest taking SUSTIVA at bedtime to reduce any side effects you may experience.

SUSTIVA, an NNRTI*, must be used in combination with other HIV drugs.

SUSTIVA is tough on HIV. It reduces the amount of virus in your blood and increases the number of CD4 cells. SUSTIVA can even be used in young children, 3 years of age or older. This is based on results from controlled clinical trials at 24 weeks. Presently, there are no results from controlled clinical trials showing the long-term effects of SUSTIVA.

SUSTIVA has manageable side effects. Most side effects are mild to moderate and can be managed. The most significant side effects associated with SUSTIVA therapy have been nervous system symptoms (dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating and/or abnormal dreams) and rash. These usually subside within the first two to four weeks of treatment. In a small number of patients, rash may be serious. Taking SUSTIVA at bedtime may help make nervous system symptoms less noticeable.

Pregnancy should be avoided in women receiving SUSTIVA because birth defects have been seen in primates dosed with SUSTIVA. Barrier contraception should always be used in combination with other methods of contraception.

Talk to your doctor when you start taking SUSTIVA. SUSTIVA may change the effect of other medicines (including ones for HIV). Always tell your doctor if you are taking, starting or changing any prescription or non-prescription medicine when taking SUSTIVA. Your doctor may change your medicines or change their dose. You should discuss your prior medical conditions (such as mental illness, substance abuse, hepatitis, etc.) with your doctor before taking SUSTIVA.

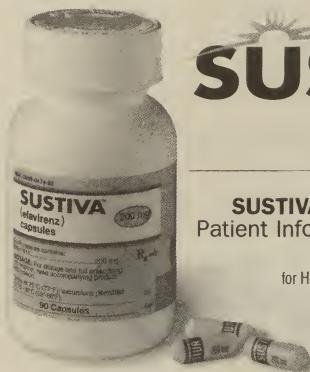
We know that coping with HIV is difficult enough. Your treatment doesn't have to be. Ask your doctor about SUSTIVA. For more important information see the next page for Patient Information about SUSTIVA.

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Once Daily **SUSTIVA™** efavirenz

SUSTIVA™ (efavirenz) capsules Patient Information about SUSTIVA*

(sus-TEE-vah)
for HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) Infection
Generic name: efavirenz (eh-FAH-vih-rehnz)

Please read this information before you start taking SUSTIVA. Read it again each time you refill your prescription, in case there is any new information. Don't treat this leaflet as your only source of information about SUSTIVA. Always discuss SUSTIVA with your doctor when you start taking your medicine and at every visit. You should remain under a doctor's care when using SUSTIVA. You should not change or stop treatment without first talking to your doctor.

What is SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA is a medicine used to help treat HIV, the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). SUSTIVA is a type of HIV drug called a "non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor" (NNRTI).

How does SUSTIVA work?

SUSTIVA works by lowering the amount of HIV in the blood (called "viral load"). SUSTIVA must be taken with other anti-HIV medicines. When taken with other anti-HIV medicines, SUSTIVA has been shown to reduce viral load and increase the number of CD4 cells (a type of immune cell in blood). SUSTIVA may not have these effects in every patient.

Does SUSTIVA cure HIV or AIDS?

SUSTIVA is not a cure for HIV or AIDS. People taking SUSTIVA may still develop other infections associated with HIV. Because of this, it is very important that you remain under the care of your doctor.

Does SUSTIVA reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

SUSTIVA has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others. Continue to practice safe sex, and do not use or share dirty needles.

How should I take SUSTIVA?

- The dose of SUSTIVA for adults is 600 mg (three 200 mg capsules, taken together) once a day by mouth. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower (see **Can children take SUSTIVA?**).
- Take SUSTIVA at the same time each day. You should take SUSTIVA at bedtime during the first few weeks or if you have side effects, such as dizziness or trouble concentrating (see **What are the possible side effects of SUSTIVA?**).
- Swallow SUSTIVA with water, juice, milk or soda. You may take SUSTIVA with or without meals; however, SUSTIVA should not be taken with a high fat meal.
- Do not miss a dose of SUSTIVA. If you forget to take SUSTIVA, take the missed dose right away. If you do miss a dose, do not double the next dose. Carry on with your regular dosing schedule. If you need help in planning the best times to take your medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- Take the exact amount of SUSTIVA your doctor prescribes. Never change the dose on your own. Do not stop this medicine unless your doctor tells you to stop.
- When your SUSTIVA supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to SUSTIVA and become harder to treat.

Can children take SUSTIVA?

Yes, children who are able to swallow capsules can take SUSTIVA. Rash may be a serious problem in some children. Tell your child's doctor right away if you notice rash or any other side effects while your child is taking SUSTIVA. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower than the dose for adults. Capsules containing lower doses of SUSTIVA are available. Your child's doctor will determine the right dose based on your child's weight.

Who should not take SUSTIVA?

Do not take SUSTIVA if you are allergic to SUSTIVA or any of its ingredients.

What other medical problems or conditions should I discuss with my doctor?

- Talk to your doctor right away if you:
- Are pregnant or want to become pregnant
- Are breast-feeding
- Have problems with your liver, or have had hepatitis
- Start or change any medicine
- Have side effects while taking SUSTIVA
- Have a history of mental illness, substance or alcohol abuse

What are the possible side effects of SUSTIVA (efavirenz)?

Many patients have dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams a few hours after starting treatment with SUSTIVA. These feelings may be less noticeable if you take SUSTIVA at bedtime. They also tend to go away after you've taken the medicine for a few weeks. Rarely, patients have more serious side effects that may affect mood or ability to think clearly. These side effects occur more often in patients with a history of mental illness or substance abuse. Tell your doctor promptly if any of these side effects continue or if they bother you. There is the possibility that these symptoms may be more severe if SUSTIVA is used with alcohol or mood altering (street) drugs. You should avoid driving or operating machinery if you are having these side effects.

One of the most common side effects is rash. These rashes usually go away without any change in treatment. In a small number of patients, rash may be serious. If you develop a rash, call your doctor promptly.

Other common side effects include tiredness, upset stomach, vomiting, and diarrhea. However, this is not a complete list of side effects reported with SUSTIVA when taken with other anti-HIV drugs. Do not rely on this leaflet alone for information about side effects. Your doctor can discuss a more complete list of side effects with you.

Please contact your doctor immediately before stopping SUSTIVA because of side effects. Tell your doctor or other healthcare provider if you notice any side effects while taking SUSTIVA.

What about birth control, pregnancy, or breast-feeding?

Women should not become pregnant while taking SUSTIVA. Birth defects have been seen in animals treated with SUSTIVA. It is not known whether this could happen in humans. You should use a condom or diaphragm in addition to other methods of birth control while taking SUSTIVA. Inform your doctor immediately if you are pregnant. If you want to become pregnant, talk to your doctor. Do not take SUSTIVA if you are breast-feeding. Talk to your doctor if you are breast-feeding your baby.

Can I take other medicines with SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA may change the effect of other medicines (including ones for HIV). Your doctor may change your medicines or change their doses. For this reason, it is very important to:

- Let all your doctors and pharmacists know that you take SUSTIVA.
- Tell your doctors and pharmacists about all medicines you take. This includes those you buy over-the-counter and herbal or natural remedies.

Bring all your medicines when you see a doctor, or make a list of their names, how much you take, and how often you take them. This will give your doctor a complete picture of the medicines you use. Then he or she can decide the best approach for your situation.

The following medicines may cause serious and life-threatening side effects when taken with SUSTIVA. You should not take any of these medicines while taking SUSTIVA:**

- Hismalid® (astemizole)
- Propulsid® (cisapride)
- Versed® (midazolam)
- Halcion® (triazolam)
- Ergot medications (for example, Wigraine® and Cafergot®)

The following medicines may need to be changed or have their dose changed when taken with SUSTIVA:**

- Crixivan® (indinavir)
- Fortovase® (saquinavir)
- Biaxin® (clarithromycin)

How should I keep SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA is available as 50 mg, 100 mg, and 200 mg capsules.

Keep SUSTIVA at room temperature (77°F) in the bottle given to you by your pharmacist. The temperature can range from 59°–86°F.

Keep SUSTIVA out of the reach of children.

How can I learn more about SUSTIVA?

Talk to your doctor or other healthcare provider if you have questions about either SUSTIVA or HIV. For additional information you can visit the SUSTIVA website at <http://www.sustiva.com>.

This medicine was prescribed for your particular condition. Do not use it for any other condition or give it to anybody else. Keep SUSTIVA out of the reach of children. If you suspect that more than the prescribed dose of this medicine has been taken, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.

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Transgender death costs DC \$2.9 million

by Bob Roehr

The District of Columbia must pay \$2.9 million to the estate of a transgendered woman because of medical negligence and a violation of her human rights, which lead to her death. A jury returned the verdict late last Friday, December 11.

Tyra Hunter was a passenger in a car when another vehicle slammed into it in August 1995. According to witnesses, she lay on the street moaning in pain as an emergency medical technician (EMT) cut away her pant leg to check for injuries.

Suddenly the EMT bolted back. "This ain't no bitch. It's a nigger. He's got a dick and balls," he reportedly shouted to his colleagues. They stopped treating Hunter for five to seven minutes, despite pleas from the crowd to resume care. And they returned to their job of saving lives only when a supervisor arrived and ordered them to do so.

Hunter was taken to the city-run D.C. General Hospital where she died two hours later. Missing X-rays and other medical records muddles an exact recounting of what transpired there.

Hunter was 24 and had lived as a woman from the age of 17. She had cosmetic surgery to augment breasts and cheeks, while genital reconfiguration was down the road. The EMT's shock was testimony to her ability to "pass" as a woman.

Her career as a hair stylist was skyrocketing and she generously contributed to the family finances.

The accident occurred just a block from the house in which she grew up, the neighbors had come to accept her transformation.

Cause célèbre

Hunter's death quickly became a rallying point for the Washington lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community. It sparked several rallies as the fire department opened, quashed, then – under public pressure – reopened an investigation of the incident. The fire chief has since taken a job in another city.

Charges of a cover-up were manifest from the start. Normal investigative procedures were not followed, key medical records from the hospital mysteriously disappeared, and stories seemed to change over time.

Margie Hunter, Tyra's mother, filed suit seeking \$10 million in damages from the city. The contentious trial spread over nearly a month. Press accounts were not sensationalized, perhaps because cameras are not allowed in D.C. courtrooms and the judge slapped a gag on the contending attorneys prohibiting them from speaking with the press while the trial was in progress.

The jury came back after three full days of deliberation. They awarded \$100,000 for the slur and \$500,000 for withdrawal of services by the fire department, as violations of the D.C. Human Rights Act. The hospital was hit with \$1.5 million for malpractice, and the balance of the award was for lost income.

Margie Hunter said the trial has always been about holding the

city accountable, not about money. After the verdict was read she told reporters, "I know [Tyra] is smiling now, because I did the right thing."

No dress code for rights

"It is so rare for transgender people to get justice," said activist Jessica Xavier. "The jury saw that this was an ordinary human being just trying to make her life work. That is what carried the day, her humanity."

Attorney Dana Priesing monitored the trial for GenderPAC. She saw "a little bit of the shadow of Matthew Shepard" in the jury's decision. "Stereotypes can kill you. I think that Matthew Shepard's death brought that home. And Tyra is just another example of the same thing, stereotypes can kill you."

Dee Curry, co-founder of Transgenders Against Discrimination (TADD), said, "The District of Columbia must now take notice and assure that its employees will treat all of its citizens fairly and equally. There can be no dress code for human rights in this city."

Priesing hopes that the verdict will send a message to front-line city employees that all people are to be treated equally. And if you don't, "it could take three years out of your [professional] life and put you in purgatory for quite a long time. It just isn't worth it."

The city has yet to decide on whether or not it will appeal the verdict, perhaps as a tactic to negotiate a lower settlement. Malpractice decisions are seldom overturned, so that portion is likely to remain. ▶

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- Inspect brake lining
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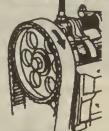
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Beyond the rainbow:

Silver bells (and other instruments of joy)

by Grace Period

Now that plans for our community center are actually taking shape, mid-Market is going to simply be the place for queer folk to shop. Here's a select list of unusual items available at nearby shops.

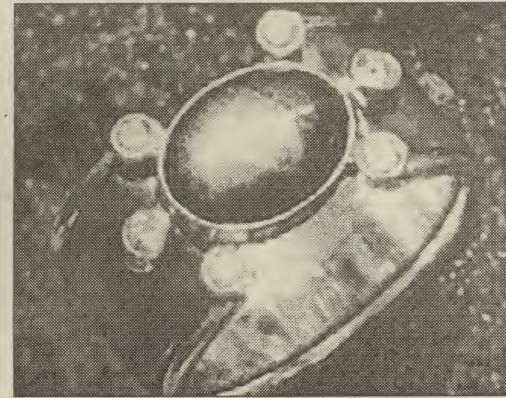
Form follows function at **Flax Art & Design**, your must-stop in gift-wrapping. A variety of glittering blank books (\$2.99 - \$25.00), pewter picture frames (\$14.00 - \$40.00), designer boxes (\$6.99 to \$23.99) and glam gift wrap paper (\$4-10 a sheet) can make the blandest gift seem extravagant and the sorriest stocking stuffer. Flax Art & Design, 1699 Market (415) 552-2355.

Looking for a holiday knick-knack of precious proportions? How about a pair of Gianinni sterling silver fir tree salt and pepper shakers? Priced at \$195.00, they make a great instant heirloom. And where to hide it when you're out? Where else but a special Secret Box Book? It looks like book, but it's got a secret compartment! These and other goodies reside at **Beaver Bros. Antiques**, 1637 Market St. (415) 863-4344.

Practical gifts come in silver and black at **G&M Sales**, 1667 Market (415) 863-2855, the best outdoors store around. A sturdy aluminum coffee holder (\$14.00) will soothe the road-raged commuter in your life. What better butch stocking stuffer than a genuine Swiss Army Knife (\$16 - \$52.00)? They come in so handy when picking teeth (or locks). If you're thinking campy, how about cookware for the butch outdoorsperson (\$14 - \$88)? Stick a sprig of pine in the wrapping and maybe your giftee will take you on a trip to the woods! The pugilistically-inclined might love a strapping black Everlast punching bag. Bags range from \$30-70. Give your honey a pair of Everlast's sexy white satin boxing trunks with black side piping (\$14 - \$25), and he/she may never get out of the bedroom and into the ring!

Jewels in the aisle

Of course, nothing says "Marry me while you can!" better than jewelry. Proposing over the holidays is great, since you'll never forget your anniversary! But why settle for prefab rings when you can get your very own unique item custom-made by a gay designer? **Eric Richter**'s been designing unique jewelry for years. Most of Richter's business comes from his equally well-designed



One of the custom rings made by jewelry designer Eric Richter.

web site. "I use my computer to sketch designs and experiment with materials for technically involved pieces," he says, and among the more colorful commissions were a cross full of rubies and garnets for a gay minister. "Religion has so many wonderful accessories," he cracked. It's too late to get something custom-made now, but you can always make a gift certificate out of silver magic markers (oops! Back to Flax again) and let your giftee offer Richter suggestions on the design. You can check out his various items (precious metal rings are in the \$600 range), and learn more about custom work, on his faboo website at <http://metaldesign.com>, or e-mail him at inquiries@metaldesign.com.

Silver night rate

For those who want a fun kitchen item with style as well as culinary and historic value, how about a silver 1950s toaster? Ranging from \$45 to \$95, the array of designs make a faboo addition to your loved one's breakfast. For the more studious, a Deco silver and black desk lamp that oddly resembles the Starship Enterprise (\$495) would be a stunning gift for the workaholic on your list. You can find these items at **Another Time**, 1586 Market St. (415) 553-8900.

If road trips are a favorite activity for your sweetie, why not buy him or her a Harley? **Dudley Perkins Co.**, 66 Page Street, near the corner of Market and Gough (415) 703-9480, offers a shining storeroom array of motorcycles. A cute lil' 1200 goes for just a smidge over \$10,000. You know what Marlon Brando said. "I love to have something big and warm between my legs." (I of course, pre-

fer to ride bitch.) If your budget is a tad smaller, or you're seeking a few vroomy stocking stuffers, a variety of Harley pins, caps, T-shirts and other trinkets are available as great stocking stuffers. They come in black, silver and other macho colors. Your loved one will be the hit of the next hog run!

And for the truly extravagant gift, take a gander at the stunning silver 12-piece place settings available at **Decodence**, 1684 Market St., (415) 553-4525. Store proprietor Eric Menard displays some amazing antique silverware sets ranging from \$595 for a Victorian set, to \$15,000 for a rare Italian antique set. Coffee server sets are also a few of their rarities. Serving java will never be the same. For the more ornaturally-inclined, Decodence also offers some gorgeous homoerotic sculptures by the late (but not gay, according to Menard) WPA-era sculptor Donald De Lue. His nude male works in bronze will make a dazzling addition to the serious art collector on your list. Prices range from \$20,000 to \$35,000 for various heroic god and war hero sculptures with such lusciously curved buns, ooh, I couldn't help but cop a feel! A sumptuously illustrated book about De Lue is also available for a mere \$65.00.

And what gay gift guide be complete without an homage to the silver screen? **Limelight Film and Theatre Bookstore**, 1803 Market (415) 864-2265 is a feast of black and white: screenplays from classic films, guides to the theatre and gorgeous coffee table books on the great stars of the silver screen. If you can't find something at Limelight for a queer friend, or yourself, then you're probably reading the wrong newspaper. ▼

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HOLIDAY SHOPPING

Hot in Hayes

◀ page 1

the Yerba Buena Center. You can hold the luscious, tasty essence of tangerines: Esteban Prieto glass tumblers, \$18. Very hot are the supremely ridiculous tiny stilts structures like hold-in-your-hand Twin Peaks Towers, the "StarLed" (\$10) (a five-pointed star) and the "DavidLed" (\$12) (a six-pointed star, natch) with tiny, tiny red lights gracing the tips, atop several witty inches of balanced wire, the whole contraption poised directly on a 9-volt battery. For only 75 cents there are dozens of beautiful Indian glass rings suffused with color, and charming finger puppets from Peru, animals hand-knitted and sweet for \$4.50.

And, if you are inclined to start that art investment strategy, (or just want to make yourself happy) nip into the neighboring **Art Options** contemporary crafts, and **Images: A Gallery**, both at 372 Hayes. A museum-like space boasting fine art glass rivaling that of Dale Chihuly; Options and Images flames with silver-pinks, reds, spots of joy on clear glass, and a breath-taking orangey yellow plate in the glowing, translucent colors of fruit you can only dream. (If your pocketbook doesn't quite keep pace with your excellent taste, try the big, dark, swirled Girl Glass ball ornaments, only \$25.)

Next door, the **San Francisco Women Artist's Gallery** at 370 Hayes lets the dyke shopper glow in the reflected light of photographs, paintings, scarves, colorful hand-painted ties and vests, sculpture, and more. Eerie and riveting image: The Web Once Woven, a crouched woman almost tied down by a spider's web, \$225.

Crossing Gough, don't forget long-time favorite **Star Classics**, 425 Hayes, full of music and light (light opera.) Actually, all kinds of opera, classical music, and beau-coup show tunes, as well, in CDs, cassettes galore, plus deliciously cheesy busts of famous composers, opera-themed posters, music mugs, and for those who sing their hearts out only in the shower, gift bathtubs (I'm serious) with Baroque CDs and yellow rubber duckies! (\$14-\$22.99.) Only \$12.99 through December 26, Cecilia Bartoli, Andrea Bocelli, and Bryn Terfel's *Hymn to the World 2*, and George and Ira Gershwin's *Standards & Gems*.

Cool in Castro

◀ page 1

Acorn slippers, \$39 - \$45 in chenille and suede.

Next door, up the tattered rainbow stairs at 535 Castro, another arm of the Rolo empire, **RPM**, is an uber-cool, spartan space with fresh and recklessly raw clothes. 'Tis the season to be jolly: don't miss the casual, comfy, and disturbing Nice® brand shirt trimmed with torn cloth and melted toxic spills.

Back across the street at **Only On Castro** at 518-A, check out the huge round table heaped with wooden crosses, coated with painted or embossed metal; imagine a lesbi-gay Campstola where the weary pilgrims have dumped their reliquaries and moved on to shop. Beyond cool and into Camp Schlock: motorized, water-spinning pink rose quartz megaliths lit from within!

Three drag queens, (or should it be we three kings?) recently started a craze when they bought one of the huge prop Martini



A pink dragon and Day of the Dead figurines at Polanco on Hayes St.

pleasing Chacel candles and amazing plastic tubes containing LineLights, (\$34) by far the most sophisticated of the "amusing-fun-lights-on-string" genre, with what pass for a bevy of nun's wimples, or maybe a line of sugarplum fairies by Chanel.

Asphalt, at 551 Hayes, features beyond the edge of the envelope clothes of several small Bay Area design companies, all laid out in a space both calm and shocking in its vivid colors, with a rich purple wall, surrounding a baby grand piano, music not too loud, with this year's hottest kitty hats, little ears lined in pink, or deep red, \$19. The cutting-edge clothes run from around \$65 to \$120, but incredibly wonderful, very heavy ballistic nylon motorcycle jackets, (sort of Emma Peel meets the Terminator) in black with acid yellow touches. One of those will set back Santa up to \$570. ▼

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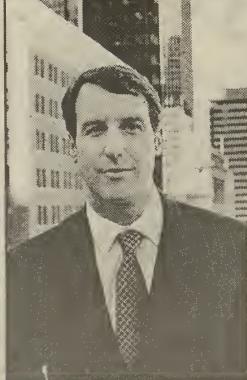


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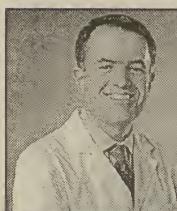


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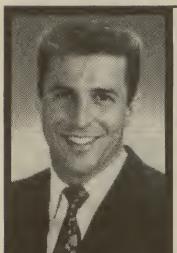


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DSCS needs help this holiday season

by Cynthia Laird

While you're out shopping for the holidays, the folks over at Dolores Street Community Services (DSCS) would really appreciate it if you could pick some personal items that can be distributed to clients at the Dolores Housing Program. The men's shelter is the only one in San Francisco targeting the Mission and Castro districts and needs help this holiday season, said Bob Nelson, DSCS executive director.

"We are urgently in need of volunteers and donations to help us bring the working poor of our community through the cold months," he explained.

Around 100 personal bags with items such as deodorant, disposable razors, shaving cream, shampoo, soap, hand lotion, toothpaste, handkerchiefs, and socks are needed. David Rodriguez, director of the housing program, said other holiday needs include three decorated or undec-

orated Christmas trees, holiday decorations, and 100 Christmas cards.

Nelson said that while homelessness continues to be a major priority for the city, financial donations and donations of materials such as the personal bags are greatly needed by his agency to help keep providing basic shelter services. DSCS's housing program serves over 2,000 people annually, and many of them are working poor.

"It continues to be really difficult to provide basic operations and supply basic shelter services," Nelson told the Bay Area Reporter. "It's great to have ancillary services such as job development and substance abuse services, but we also need the nuts and bolts." In this case, the nuts and bolts Nelson referred to include donations such as the personal bags.

This year marked DSCS's 15th anniversary of providing services to the homeless, Latino community, and people living with HIV/AIDS. Nelson said the recent devastation after Hurricane Mitch in Central America will hit San

Francisco hard. Central Americans who are already here may no longer have the option of moving back home. That means agencies like DSCS expect to see a large increase in the numbers of people the organization is serving as the Latino homeless population grows this winter.

DSCS's emergency housing program provides people with shelter, showers, culturally appropriate meals, English as a second language classes, case management, and other services designed to find avenues to housing and employment for those who are not working. Other services provided by the agency include the Richard M. Cohen Residence, a licensed facility providing 24-hour supportive care to people with AIDS who were previously homeless, and a much used community center at 938 Valencia Street. ▼

To make arrangements to drop off donations, or to inquire about services, call DSCS at (415) 282-6209.

Glide fills Gap with groceries, giveaways

by Mark Norby

Giving Involves Volunteer Effort! (GIVE!) is not an organization with a cute little acronym that rises to the occasion and pulls at your heart strings. It's what those with ability do when there are fellow beings in need, and GIVE! is what one church does like no other.

Glide Memorial Church is the largest independent social services provider in San Francisco. The holiday season is the time of year when Glide proves that it is truly a temple to the needy. A temple that knows how to GIVE!

"We really feel the effect welfare reform has created," Glide's senior minister, the Reverend Cecil Williams, told the B.A.R. "It is a

desperate situation for many San Franciscans and the demand on our church for support services are increasing. It is a serious situation and we urge the citizens of the Bay Area to join with us to help."

This year Glide teams up with The Gap to sponsor a kid's shopping spree December 18 at 7:30 a.m. beginning at Glide, 330 Ellis Street, and moving on to the downtown stores of The Gap. Two hundred and seventy kids will be bound for fashion thanks to the generosity of entrepreneur Steve Fox of Mill Valley, and The Gap.

This Monday, December 21 from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Glide will give away 10,000 bags of groceries to individuals and families. The food giveaway is made possible by donations from area volunteers

and supermarkets and by the generous financial contributions of the community.

Toys will be given to 3,000 children on Wednesday, December 23 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The toy giveaway is made possible by donations from families around the Bay Area and local merchants.

On Christmas Eve, December 24, Glide will host a prime rib lunch from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. thanks to the giving of Joe Betz, general manager of the House of Prime Rib restaurant. Some 3,500 plates of juicy beef and accompanying dishes will be served to the hungry and needy. As always, Glide looks forward to an early response from those interested in volunteering. Call the church volunteer line at (415) 771-4014. ▼

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Sha'ar Zahav to dedicate new synagogue

by Shan Schwartz

Three days of festivities are planned this weekend as Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, a predominantly gay synagogue, dedicates its new building near the Castro District.

Rabbi Jane Litman told the Bay Area Reporter that Sha'ar Zahav's celebration coincides with the Jewish festival of Hanukkah, which commemorates the re-dedication of the Temple in Jerusalem after its desecration in the second century B.C.

"The festival of Hanukkah is about freedom, pride, and re-dedication," she said, "and what could be a better holiday for us to show our pride and freedom as Jews, gays, and progressive members of this community?"

The new synagogue is at 290 Dolores Street, at the corner of 16th Street.

Litman said the new building offers Sha'ar Zahav much more room for its offices and classrooms, as well as a beautiful new sanctuary with a seating capacity three times as large as the congregation's past location. The building will also include meeting rooms, a large rabbi's study, and a library.

The building has undergone extensive renovation and expansion in the last several months since Sha'ar Zahav took ownership. The site was formerly the Cominsky-Roche funeral home.

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, which means "Golden Gate" in Hebrew, is a progressive Reform synagogue established in 1977 by three gay men who were inspired by the formation of gay-outreach synagogues in New York, Los Angeles, and Chicago. Today the membership includes more than 600 lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, and heterosexual Jews with their partners, families, and friends.

Tiela Chalmers, Sha'ar Zahav's building coordinator and past president, said the new building was necessary not only for the current membership but for those who will come in the future.

"As the 21st century approaches,



Beth Sousa of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav hand fabricates a menorah during the Chanukah Craft Fair on Dec. 13.

Rick Gerhardt

we need a new gate, a new synagogue," Chalmers said.

Sha'ar Zahav's previous location was in the Upper Market area on Danvers Street. For the past year, however, the congregation has had temporary quarters at St. Matthews Lutheran Church, which sits across the street from Sha'ar Zahav's new home.

Transition starts Friday

This weekend's festivities begin Friday evening, December 18, with regular Sabbath religious services, where the congregation will also honor the building committee and architects.

On Saturday, December 19, an outdoor dedication service will begin at 5 p.m. on Dolores Street. Litman said the ceremony will include a public lighting of the menorah, celebrating Havdalah, which represents transition.

"It's a transition from the Sabbath to the weekdays, and also a transition for us into this new sacred home," she said.

The dedication will also include a blessing of the Mezuzah, which goes outside the doors of the building and is a traditional item that marks a Jewish home.

Following the dedication service, Sha'ar Zahav will host a party all evening inside the new building, with live music provided by the congregation's klezmer

band as well as other music and dancing.

On Sunday, December 20, Sha'ar Zahav will host a neighborhood open house from noon to 3 p.m. The event will include a presentation from the stained glass artists who created windows for the new sanctuary, and an appreciation ceremony for members of the St. Matthews Lutheran Church. ▼

For more information, call Sha'ar Zahav at (415) 861-6932.

Golden Gate MCC plans window, party to honor outgoing pastor

by Vicki Kolakowski

Members and friends of Golden Gate Metropolitan Community Church in San Francisco will gather after this Sunday's worship service to honor and say good-bye to their pastor, the Reverend Sharna Sutherin, who will be stepping down at the end of this month for health reasons.

Sutherin and her partner Pam Burgess will move to Gallup, New Mexico, where Burgess has accepted a new position as a clinical psychologist with the East Navajo reservation school system. Sutherin will complete her doctoral work in absentia.

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Rev. Sharna Sutherin



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Addressing tuberculosis

by Phillip Alden, ACT UP/
Golden Gate Writers Pool

The prevalence of HIV/AIDS in worldwide populations has brought renewed focus on an old – but preventable and treatable – killer. Tuberculosis (TB) is one of the oldest scourges to mankind. Today, one-third of the world population is infected with TB, although TB infection is not synonymous with active TB disease.

TB is an airborne bacterium, spread when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Constant contact with an infected person raises the likelihood of contracting the disease. It was often fatal in all populations until the late 1800s, when French scientists developed an anti-TB vaccine called Bacille Calmette-Guérin, or BCG. The first antibiotic to treat advanced TB disease, streptomycin, was developed in 1944.

Today, an estimated 10-15 million people in the U.S. are in-

fected but do not have active TB disease. TB infection started rising in the 1980s due to the presence of HIV/AIDS, the weakening of the public health infrastructure and an increase in immigration. The increase caused no small amount of alarm among public health officials, who re-devoted more of their resources to fighting and preventing TB. Many people infected with TB are foreign-born and were infected in their country of origin. TB is prevalent in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, three regions of the world with the fastest rate of HIV/AIDS infection. It is estimated that there are 8-10 million new cases of TB and three million deaths each year. The highest rate of TB infection and disease occurs in impoverished communities.

TB is most common in people with weakened immune systems, the elderly, small children, and people with immune-compromising diseases. In developed countries, people undergoing HIV/AIDS therapy are routinely tested for the disease. Other medical and socioeconomic factors include diabetes, kidney failure, cancer chemotherapy, alcoholism and drug abuse, poverty, and malnutrition. Environments such as homeless shelters, prisons, and long-term healthcare facilities increase the risk of TB infection.

TB, MDR-TB, and HIV

Tuberculosis is caused by a bacterium known as Mycobacterium tuberculosis. This bacterium is inhaled and stored in air sacs in the lungs. Active TB occurs when the immune system is no longer able to keep it in check.

Eighty-five percent of all TB cases occur in the lungs, though people with HIV are more likely to develop "Extrapulmonary TB," (outside the lungs.)

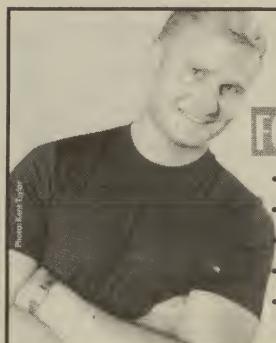
The symptoms of TB disease in the lungs include a cough that lasts for more than two weeks, expulsion of lung fluid, chest pain, fatigue, weakness, malaise, loss of appetite, weight loss, and fever. TB can also infect multiple organs and bone marrow. If you are experiencing one or more of these symptoms you

treatment of TB are similar to those of HIV/AIDS, combinations of three or more drugs, avoidance of monotherapy due to resistance, and resistance testing to guide therapy. Adding a drug to a failing regimen is not recommended; just like HIV therapy. Also, people with HIV are more likely to experience a rapid progression of TB disease, and are more likely to contract or develop MDR-TB.

BCG vaccine is used for TB prevention, but its efficacy is questionable. People in high-risk groups, especially people with HIV/AIDS, should avoid areas where TB is prevalent and should get tested regularly. Also, TB drugs interact with HIV drugs in both positive and negative ways. Any healthcare provider should be aware of all medications you are currently taking, not just HIV drugs. If you are seeing a healthcare professional for the first time, bring all of your medica-



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TB is most common in people with weakened immune systems, the elderly, small children, and people with immune-compromising diseases. In developed countries, people undergoing HIV/AIDS therapy are routinely tested for the disease.

should get in touch with your primary care provider and avoid close contact with others, (especially fellow family members and people with weakened immune systems). High-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filters can help avoid the spread of the disease. As a side-note, HEPA filters can also relieve the suffering of people with strong allergies.

In the early 1990s, healthcare professionals and epidemiologists began to see new strains of multi-drug resistant tuberculosis, (MDRTB.) Many MDRTB cases were found in people with HIV. Treatment of MDRTB is much more expensive and long-term, and MDRTB has a higher mortality rate. The highest rate of MDRTB is found in the same populations as regular TB.

HIV infection is a major risk factor in the development of active TB disease. Strategies for

tions to the appointment. Be sure to bring your non-prescription drugs as well as your prescription ones. This includes emergency room visits.

If you are put on TB therapy, adherence to the regimen and completion of the therapy is essential. Stopping the therapy prematurely can lead to the development of multi-drug resistant TB and possible hospitalization. This cannot be stressed enough: **TB is life-threatening and must be treated effectively.** With proper testing and complete adherence to prescribed therapy, tuberculosis does not have to be a fatal disease. ▼

Thanks to Liz Highleyman at BETA, the National Institutes of Health, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for background for this article.

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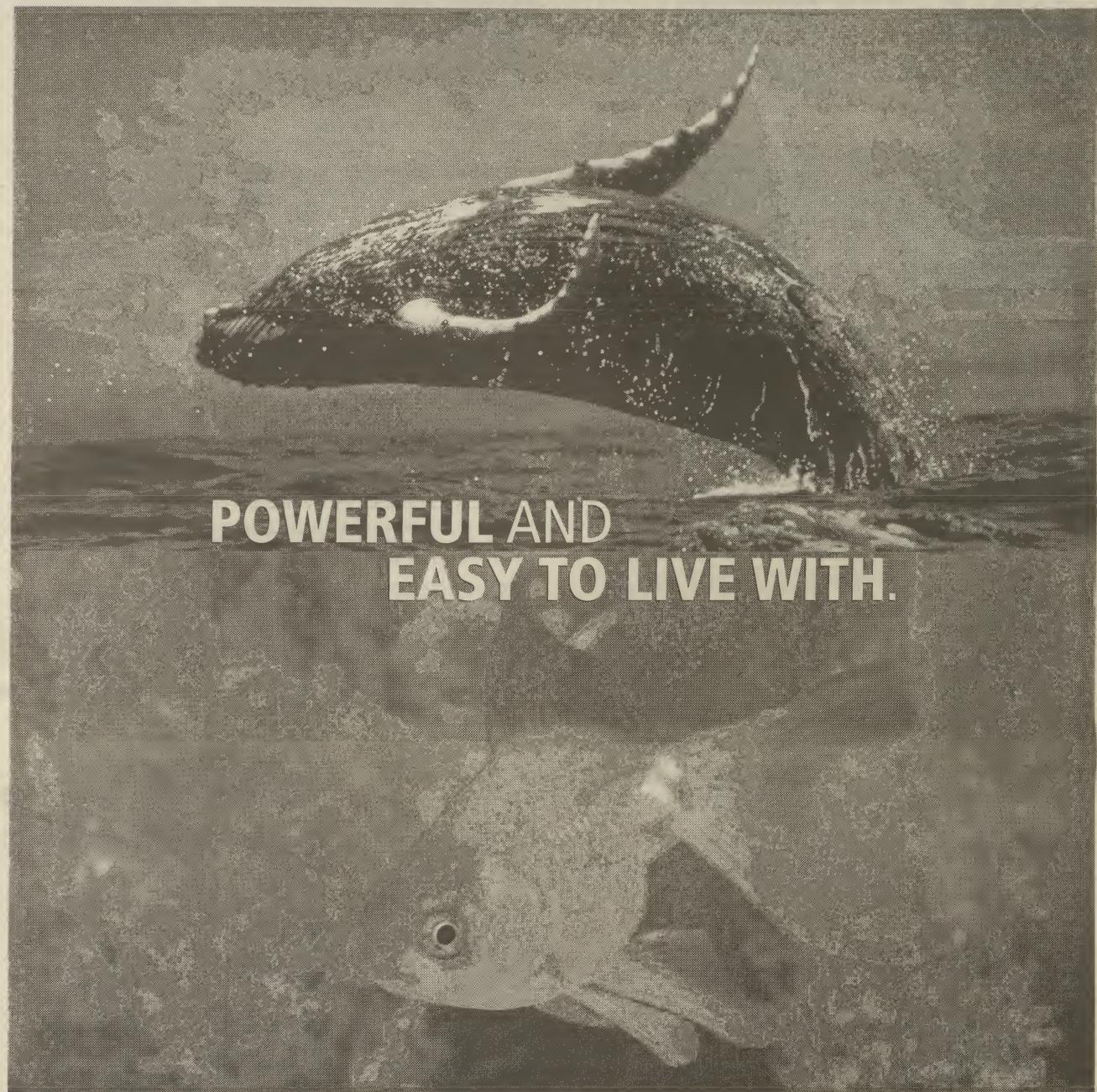
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Please read this information carefully before taking VIRACEPT. Also, please read this leaflet each time you renew the prescription, just in case anything has changed. This is a summary and not a replacement for a careful discussion with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss VIRACEPT when you start taking this medication and at regular checkups. You should remain under a doctor's care when taking VIRACEPT and should not change or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.

WHAT IS VIRACEPT AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

VIRACEPT is used in the treatment of people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. Infection with HIV leads to the destruction of CD4 T cells, which are important to the immune system. After a large number of CD4 cells have been destroyed, the infected person develops acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

VIRACEPT works by blocking HIV protease (a protein-cutting enzyme), which is required for HIV to multiply. VIRACEPT has been shown to significantly reduce the amount of HIV in the blood. You should be aware, however, that the effect of VIRACEPT on HIV in the blood has not been correlated with long-term health benefits. Patients who took VIRACEPT also had significant increases in their CD4 cell count.

VIRACEPT is usually taken together with other antiretroviral drugs such as Retrovir[®] (zidovudine, AZT), Epivir[®] (lamivudine, 3TC), or Zerit[®] (stavudine, d4T). Taking VIRACEPT in combination with other antiretroviral drugs reduces the amount of HIV in the body (viral load) and raises CD4 counts.

VIRACEPT may be taken by adults, adolescents, and children 2 years of age or older. Studies in infants younger than 2 years of age are now taking place.

DOES VIRACEPT CURE HIV OR AIDS?

VIRACEPT is not a cure for HIV infection or AIDS. The long-term effects of VIRACEPT are not known at this time. People taking VIRACEPT may still develop opportunistic infections or other conditions associated with HIV infection. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, *Mycobacterium avium complex* (MAC) infections, and Kaposi's sarcoma.

It is not known whether VIRACEPT will help you live longer or reduce the number of infections or other illnesses that may occur.

There is no proof that VIRACEPT can reduce the risk of transmitting HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

WHO SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT TAKE VIRACEPT?

Together with your doctor, you need to decide whether VIRACEPT is appropriate for you. In making your decision, the following should be considered:

Allergies: If you have had a serious allergic reaction to VIRACEPT, you must not take VIRACEPT. You should also inform your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist of any known allergies to substances such as other medicines, foods, preservatives, or dyes.

If you are pregnant: The effects of VIRACEPT on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known. If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

If you are breast-feeding: You should discuss with your doctor the best way to feed your baby. You should be aware that if your baby does not already have HIV, there is a chance that it can be transmitted through breast-feeding. Women should not breast-feed if they have HIV.

Children: VIRACEPT is available for the treatment of children 2 through 13 years of age with HIV. There is a powder form of VIRACEPT that can be mixed with milk, baby formula, or foods like pudding. Instructions on how to take VIRACEPT powder can be found in a later section that discusses how VIRACEPT Oral Powder should be prepared.

If you have liver disease: VIRACEPT has not been studied in people with liver disease. If you have liver disease, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

Other medical problems: Certain medical problems may affect the use of VIRACEPT. Some people taking protease inhibitors have developed new or more serious diabetes or high blood sugar. Some people with hemophilia have had increased bleeding. It is not known whether the protease inhibitors caused these problems. Be sure to tell your doctor if you have hemophilia types A and B, diabetes mellitus, or an increase in thirst and/or frequent urination.

CAN VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER MEDICATIONS?

VIRACEPT may interact with other drugs, including those you take without a prescription. You must discuss with your doctor any drugs that you are taking or are planning to take before you take VIRACEPT.

Drugs you should not take with VIRACEPT:

- Seldane[®] (terfenadine, for allergies)
- Hismanal[®] (astemizole, for allergies)
- Propulsid[®] (cisapride, for heartburn)
- Cordarone[®] (amiodarone, for irregular heartbeat)
- Quinidine (for irregular heartbeat), also known as Quinaglute[®], Cardioquin[®], Quinidex[®], and others
- Ergot derivatives (Cafergot[®] and others, for migraine headache)
- Halcion[®] (triazolam)
- Versed[®] (midazolam)

Taking the above drugs with VIRACEPT may cause serious and/or life-threatening adverse events.

- Rifampin (for tuberculosis), also known as Rimactane[®], Rifadin[®], Rifater[®], or Rifaxate[®]. This drug reduces blood levels of VIRACEPT.

Dose reduction required if you take VIRACEPT with:

Mycobutin[®] (rifabutin, for MAC); you will need to take a lower dose of Mycobutin.

A change of therapy should be considered if you are taking VIRACEPT with:

- Phenobarbital
- Phenytoin (Dilantin[®] and others)
- Carbamazepine (Tegretol[®] and others)

These agents may reduce the amount of VIRACEPT in your blood and make it less effective.

- Oral contraceptives ("the pill")

If you are taking the pill to prevent pregnancy, you should use a different type of contraception since VIRACEPT may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.

HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER ANTI-HIV DRUGS?

Taking VIRACEPT together with other anti-HIV drugs increases their ability to fight the virus. It also reduces the opportunity for resistant viruses to grow. Based on your history of taking other anti-HIV medicine, your doctor will direct you on how to take VIRACEPT and other anti-HIV medicines. These drugs should be taken in a certain order or at specific times. This will depend on how many times a day each medicine should be taken. It will also depend on whether it should be taken with or without food.

Nucleoside analogues: No drug interaction problems were seen when VIRACEPT was given with:

- Retrovir (zidovudine, AZT)
- Epivir (lamivudine, 3TC)
- Zerit (stavudine, d4T)
- Videx[®] (didanosine, ddI)

If you are taking both Videx (ddI) and VIRACEPT: Videx should be taken without food, on an empty stomach. Therefore, you should take VIRACEPT with food one hour after or more than two hours before you take Videx.

Nonnucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs):

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

- Viramune[®] (nevirapine)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be reduced. Studies are now taking place to learn about the safety of combining VIRACEPT with Viramune.

- Other NNRTIs

VIRACEPT has not been studied with other NNRTIs.

Other protease inhibitors:

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

- Crizivian[®] (indinavir)
- The amount of both drugs in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.
- Norvir[™] (ritonavir)
- The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.
- Invirase[®] (saquinavir)
- The amount of saquinavir in your blood may be increased. If used in combination with saquinavir hard gelatin capsules at 600 mg three times daily, no dose adjustments are needed. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS OF VIRACEPT?

Like all medicines, VIRACEPT can cause side effects. Most of the side effects experienced with VIRACEPT have been mild to moderate. Diarrhea is the most common side effect in people taking VIRACEPT, and most adult patients had at least mild diarrhea at some point during treatment. In clinical studies, about 20% of patients receiving VIRACEPT 750 mg (three tablets) three times daily had four or more loose stools a day. In most cases, diarrhea can be controlled using antidiarrheal medicines, such as Imodium[®]-A-D (loperamide) and others, which are available without a prescription.

Other side effects that occurred in 2% or more of patients receiving VIRACEPT include abdominal pain, asthenia, nausea, flatulence, and rash.

There were other side effects noted in clinical studies that occurred in less than 2% of patients receiving VIRACEPT. However, these side effects may have been due to other drugs that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Except for diarrhea, there were not many differences in side effects in patients who took VIRACEPT along with other drugs compared with those who took only the other drugs. For a complete list of side effects, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

HOW SHOULD I TAKE VIRACEPT?

VIRACEPT is available only with your doctor's prescription. The light blue VIRACEPT Tablets should be taken three times a day. VIRACEPT should always be taken with a meal or a light snack. You do not have to take VIRACEPT exactly every 8 hours. Instead, you can take it at normal times when you are eating.

Take VIRACEPT exactly as directed by your doctor. Do not increase or decrease any dose or the number of doses per day. Also, take this medicine for the exact period of time that your doctor has instructed. Do not stop taking VIRACEPT without first consulting with your doctor, even if you are feeling better.

Only take medicine that has been prescribed specifically for you. Do not give VIRACEPT to others or take medicine prescribed for someone else.

The dosing of VIRACEPT may be different for you than for other patients. Follow the directions from your doctor, exactly as written on the label. The amount of VIRACEPT in the blood should remain somewhat consistent over time. Missing doses will cause the concentration of VIRACEPT to decrease; therefore, you should not miss any doses. However, if you miss a dose, you should take the dose as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose and future doses as originally scheduled.

Dosing in adults (including children 14 years of age and older)

The recommended adult dose of VIRACEPT is 750 mg (three tablets) taken three times a day. Each dose should be taken with a meal or light snack.

Dosing in children 2 through 13 years of age

The VIRACEPT dose in children depends on their weight. The recommended dose is 20 to 30 mg/kg (or 9 to 14 mg/pound) per dose, taken three times daily with a meal or light snack. This can be administered either in tablet form or, in children unable to take tablets, as VIRACEPT Oral Powder.

Dose instructions will be provided by the child's doctor. The dose will be given three times daily using the measuring scoop provided, a measuring teaspoon, or one or more tablets depending on the weight and age of the child. The amount of oral powder or tablets to be given to a child is described in the chart below.

Pediatric Dose to Be Administered Three Times Daily

Body Weight	Number of Level Scoops*	Number of Level Teaspoons†	Number of Tablets
Kg	Lb		
7 to < 8.5	15.5 to < 18.5	4	1
8.5 to < 10.5	18.5 to < 23	5	1 1/4
10.5 to < 12	23 to < 26.5	6	1 1/2
12 to < 14	26.5 to < 31	7	1 3/4
14 to < 16	31 to < 35	8	2
16 to < 18	35 to < 39.5	9	2 1/4
18 to < 23	39.5 to < 50.5	10	2 1/2
≥ 23	≥ 50.5	15	3 3/4

In measuring oral powder, the scoop or teaspoon should be level.

* 1 level scoop contains 50 mg of VIRACEPT. Use only the scoop provided with your VIRACEPT bottle. † 1 level teaspoon contains 200 mg of VIRACEPT. Note: A measuring teaspoon used for dispensing medication should be used for measuring VIRACEPT Oral Powder. Ask your pharmacist to make sure you have a medication dispensing teaspoon.

How should VIRACEPT Oral Powder be prepared?

The oral powder may be mixed with a small amount of water, milk, formula, soy formula, soy milk, dietary supplements, or dairy foods such as pudding or ice cream. Once mixed, the entire amount must be taken to obtain the full dose.

Do not mix the powder with any acidic food or juice, such as orange or grapefruit juice, apple juice, or apple sauce, because this may create a bitter taste.

Once the powder is mixed, it may be stored at room temperature or refrigerated for up to 6 hours. Do not heat the mixed dose once it has been prepared.

Do not add water to bottles of oral powder.

VIRACEPT powder is supplied with a scoop for measuring. For help in determining the exact dose of powder for your child, please ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

VIRACEPT Oral Powder contains aspartame, a low-calorie sweetener, and therefore should not be taken by children with phenylketonuria (PKU).

HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE STORED?

Keep VIRACEPT and all other medicines out of the reach of children. Keep bottle closed and store at room temperature (between 59°F and 86°F) away from sources of moisture such as a sink or other damp place. Heat and moisture may reduce the effectiveness of VIRACEPT.

Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. Be sure that if you throw any medicine away, it is out of the reach of children.

Discuss all questions about your health with your doctor. If you have questions about VIRACEPT or any other medication you are taking, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. You can also call 1.888.VIRACEPT (1.888.847.2237) toll free.

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Issued 11/13/97

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OBITUARIES

OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization – and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

Eugene Howard
June 2, 1920 — December 8, 1998

Eugene Howard, age 78, died on December 8 after having been severely burned when his beloved "little gray home in the West" exploded the previous morning. Gene, a long-time resident of Hayward, had just recently had the house repainted. He was active in many organizations, including GLOE, G40+, and Different Spokes. Known for his enthusiasm for bicycling, he participated in many AIDS bicycle runs. As a world traveler he had biked most of New England and the whole length of

New Zealand. In excellent physical condition, he was still bicycling regularly and planned to go skiing in Colorado in March.

A retired school teacher, Gene spent most of his career in San Leandro. A graduate of the University of Colorado, he received his MA in southern California. He also served in the U.S. Air Corps during World War II.

His friends remember him as a delightful, loving, and lovable man.

Steven Scott DeWine

March 21, 1952 —

December 6, 1998

**David Scott Lefils**

1963 — 1998

On November 15, 1998, David Scott Lefils was freed from the illnesses he had faced so bravely for several years, and a wonderful son, grandson, brother, uncle, and friend was lost.

David was born in Fremont and raised in Hayward, Oakland, Santa Barbara, and Ventura. He was extremely active in Democratic Party politics in Ventura, and even ran for City Council, the youngest person ever to do so. As

In loving memory to his gentle spirit. Steven will be mourned yet survived and loved by many. A remembrance will be held for him at St. Boniface Church on December 18, 1998.



an adult, he lived for several years in San Francisco where he worked as a salesperson at Macy's and Wine Impressions. His last three years were spent in San Leandro near his sister, grandmother, and aunt.

Dennis had a strong relationship with his family and many long-standing friendships. He will be remembered for his generous, fun-loving spirit and his courageous sense of humor. A fabulous conversationalist, he could entertain companions for hours with jokes, stories, and his extensive knowledge of wine and antiques. He enjoyed going to movies and restaurants, but he was also very domestic and liked to read, play with his cat Cheyenne, and decorate his apartment.

Dennis, your spirit is free now. We know you're with your mother, and the two of you are happy, safe, and warm. We miss you so much.

Dennis Lints

August 8, 1961 — December 12, 1998

Dennis Lints passed away at home on December 12th after his yearlong battle with lung cancer. Born in North Carolina, Dennis attended Richland High School and later moved with his family to Anaheim, California, where he graduated from Loara High School. Dennis moved to San Francisco in the late '70s, which became his home. Two

of Dennis' most rewarding jobs were working for Falcon Studios and Gensler and Associates.

Dennis was a big supporter of the Imperial and Royal Courts, where he served under the reign of Grand Duke XIII Tony Trevizo and Grand Duchess XII Deena R. Jones. Dennis was also a member of the Gay Softball League.

He is survived by his mother Connie Lints of North Carolina, father Paul Lints (and wife Mary), brothers David Serna, Robert Lints, and Jerry Lints, sisters Margie Head, Debra Garcia, and Cindy Dotson, two half sisters, one half brother, seven nephews, five nieces, and extended family members Grand Duchess XIII Deena Jones (aka Tony White), Michael Keenan, Jeff Burkman, Jim Castle, and Tony Stratton. Memorial services will be held Friday evening, December 18, at the Church of the Advent of Christ the King, 261 Fell St. at Gough, at 7 p.m.

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Time the avenger

by Jim Provenzano

In the matter of public opinion, the conglomerate known as Time, Inc. has allowed the public a chance to pick its Man of the Year, the sexism implicit and as subtle as sledgehammer. According to their recent online poll, (about which I received over half a dozen e-mails, confirming my theory that it's all a hoax), our first post-Christian martyr, Matthew Shepard, was topping the list.

Or at least, it was. A coordinated attack by thousands of anti-gay fans of pro-wrestler Mick Foley, angered that Shepard was winning, flooded Time's website with votes for Foley. But that wasn't enough: they also shut down the bulletin board of the Matthew Shepard Online Resources Web site at <http://www.wiredstrategies.com/wwwboard> with a continuous onslaught of anti-Shepard and anti-gay messages.

"On the same day Matt's mom announced the Matthew Shepard Foundation, thousands of wrestling fans descended on my site to belittle Matt's death and attack gay people," said John Aravosis, president of Wired Strategies who has been managing the site since Shepard's attack and death. "They wrote 'AIDS kills fags, and so do I,' and called Matt 'faggot,' 'little queer,' and 'Dead Homo of the Year.' It was absolutely sickening," said Aravosis.

The irony is that (as annoy-

ingly frequent cover stories on GOD, JESUS, MOSES and other soon-to-be-animated-classic characters regularly prove) Time is owned and run by right-wing Christians. If you can't figure that out, go back to *Know Thine Enemy* 101.

Included in this issue was a crypto-Christian advertorial on home teachers, born-again moms who deem public school teachers unclean for their spawn. Time presented these fundy moms as "concerned" for the "moral integrity" of the public school environment, i.e. no Sex Ed or fags. I say, good riddance to them. Now, get off our school boards, too, you pig bigots. Move up to the hills and build that ark. When the flood comes, I'll be surfing to Nevada.

But my beef with Time, aside from its egregious bias, is also grammatical. Let's recall Time's improper use of a preposition in its coverage of the murder of Matthew Shepard. On its cover, Time referred to the "War Over Gays," as if we were an aberrant pet caught pooping on a neighbor's lawn, as if we are not worthy of being in the discussion, but merely the subject of it. Any third-rate home teacher (and that's what most are, don't forget) would recognize that the war is *against* gays; even the war *on* gays would be preferable.

Of course, Time allotted space

for a pundit. Who? Andrew Sullivan, the anti-choice, devout Catholic, self-advertised sero-convertor and all-too voluminous opinionator. How diverse. This is the man who called for an investigation of ACT UP by the FBI after it had already happened.

Hey, Time, there are a lot better voices for the gay community than carpet-bagging Brits who market their HIV status on Barnes & Noble.com.

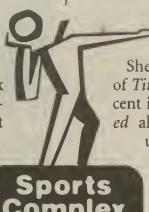
But wait, there's more!

The Matthew Shepard revisionist issues of *Time* and *People* and a recent issue of *Sports Illustrated* all included an unusual undie ad, and my vote for this year's best example of homoerotic/phobic advertising of an athletic bent rearing it pretty phallic phobic head.

The boy in question (example displayed above) appears to be muscular, and hanging upside down. Were it not for the graphics displaying/disguising the position of his fertility tools, we might even discover how he's hung.

A seasonal sacrifice? An enticing ode to male spirit? Or just an underwear ad? I seem to possess the rare skill of a mutant, the ability to detect a not-quite-visible yet screamingly clear subtext and awful irony.

At the same time, I got a few phone calls from underlings from three very large television networks, asking me to find them



some content, to scout for them.

They were all very specific in their "needs:" gay male high school athletes on team sports. Claiming they wanted them to interview, I smelled yet another media sacrifice. Turning a few kids' lives inside out for ratings while pitting them against the likes of bigoted coaches and sports "authorities," didn't seem to advance the cause. I declined.

This country seems to *love* the sight of hanging fruit, and there's going to be a lot more — bruised, bashed, and beaten — in 1999, the Year Formerly Known as the pre-Millennium, if you don't wake up.

The hate-filled gun-rack in-

- 12 Mumia Abu-Jamal 0.95
- 13 Bill Gates 0.68
- 14 my cock is huge 0.68
- 15 Hillary Clinton 0.58
- 16 Not 0.58
- 17 Bill Clinton 0.58
- 18 K.G. Barnett 0.52
- 19 Supply Spice 0.47
- 20 Andy "Curtis Girl" Smith 0.47

At last count, "my cock is huge" and the Republican Party were still beating both Clintons.

If you think I'm critiquing the uselessness of such polls in the midst of a nationwide witch/fag/hunt/burn/destroy mission, you're right. If you think I'm deliberately writing in an arrogant way just to piss you off when you

Turning a few kids' lives inside out for ratings while pitting them against the likes of bigoted coaches and sports "authorities," didn't seem to advance the cause.

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bred fucks coming out of the woodwork like extras in *Dawn of the Dead* will keep bashing homos until we get our act together and fight back.

The conspiracy is quite out in the open now — United Airlines, more than half of our government, school boards, publishers, supposedly "gay" websites, networks, and even smirking closeted queens in advertising are preparing to continue their campaign of disinformation, marketing sexuality while censoring sexual rights.

And what are we doing? We're voting for a dead kid in an online popularity contest. Here's some early results!

- 1 Matthew Shepard 62.75
- 2 Nitendra Rajput 6.39
- 3 www.cynical.com 3.06
- 4 Click on pop-up... 2.85
- 5 Viktor Orban 2.58
- 6 Kenneth Starr 2.32
- 7 Marilyn Manson 1.47
- 8 Hank the Angry, Drunken Dwarf 1.37
- 9 Michael Slater 1.10
- 10 Aaron Spelling 1.05
- 11 John Glenn 0.95

thought you'd get more sports, you win the trip to Aruba, and you didn't even buy a vowel.

This time of year, as the only president to openly support homosexuals is drawn and quartered for the offense of a blow job, while others got off scot-free for destroying entire countries, many of us are forced to observe the birth of a homeless child in a desert two millennia ago and thereby be nice to each other.

While shopping for relatives, I'm still thinking about the death and assault of gay people whose lives were lost and almost lost a few months, weeks, and days ago. You see Christmas, I see Kristallnacht. I'm funny that way.

The folks at Team Tsunami are turning (*see story on page 2*). They're turning their workouts into activism by Swimming Against Hate. Bless 'em, every lap.

Happy Whatever to you. I salute your ability to acquire and inspire seasonal cheerfulness when commanded, in spite of overwhelming oddities, including some of our beast friends. Go forth. Be fruity and multiply. ▼

Jockular holiday wishes

To the administrators and "officials" of Gay Games V: a boxful of calculators, in the cheerful "official" colors of yellow with pink striping. Fabulous, ya?

To Green Bay Packer Reggie White, who posed in uniform in an ad to support hate: a very relaxing off-season — in fact, a permanent off-season.

To the board of directors and staff of GLAAD: 110,000 cans of tepid Coors beer, to be served at half-time of the Millennium March Sports Festival, which I declare official, since I say so. Isn't that how it works, Robin? Troy? Let's have a contest and see how fast everybody can drink that Coors beer. I hear that's still popular at many sports bars, even gay ones. I'll keep score. ▼

Home safety for the holidays

Hotlines, workshops dedicated to awareness, healing of domestic violence

by Mark Norby

Abuse, hurt, and fear are not typically the words associated with holiday cheer. Those are words associated with the incidence of domestic violence, and Bay Area agencies that treat it want to heighten awareness this time of year and offer resources to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) communities. Emphasizing that there is help for those in need, counselors of domestic violence concede that their support services are in greater need now than at other times of the year.

Domestic violence comes in many different forms beyond the physical and verbal abuse that often comes to mind, and knowledge of the different forms is a large part of treating the problem.

The major Bay Area agencies that serve victims of domestic violence include Community United Against Violence (CUAV), an organization in San Francisco dedicated exclusively to the LGBT community; Men Overcoming Violence (MOVE) in San Francisco and in San Rafael; the San Francisco Network for Battered Lesbians and Bisexual Women; and New Leaf, an organization dedicated to substance abuse and mental health issues in the LGBT community, also in San Francisco.

CUAV recognizes that domestic violence is a problem "especially around the holidays," says CUAV's Greg Merrill. "But," he continued, "the reporting rate slows down dramatically. We at CUAV believe the reason for this is that people are really just trying to get through the holidays, although there is actually more domestic violence occurring in gay and lesbian relationships."

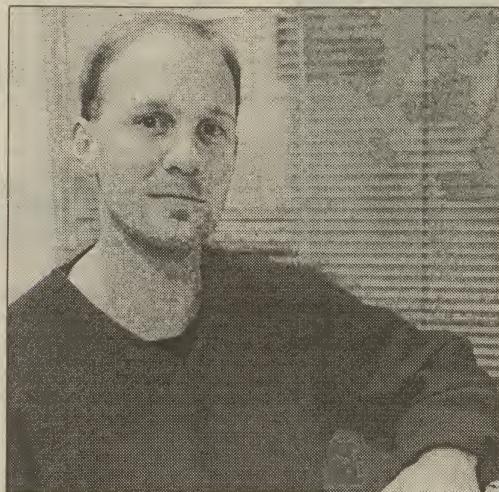
"The CUAV hotline," he continues, "typically slows down between Thanksgiving and up until after the New Year's holiday. Then, in January, the hotline once again becomes very active. Having sur-

vived the holidays, victims report what has actually occurred over that period."

Being one of the few organizations dedicated exclusively to the LGBT community, CUAV recognizes the differences between violence in its client community versus the heterosexual community. Some relationships in particular face unique challenges, where one or both partners may be HIV-positive, and where unprotected sex may be expected by one partner but not desired by the other.

Also, gay and lesbian victims of domestic violence are less likely to come forward and report incidents not just because there is lack of knowledge of existing support agencies, but also because the society is more accepting of same-sex violence than of male-to-female violence.

In relationships where one or both of the partners is HIV-positive the issues of control and manipulation are magnified. "It is important," say CUAV counselors, "that the HIV-positive person not be lured into believing that he or she has nowhere to go outside of the existing relationship. Just be-



Jane Philomen Cleland

Holidays can be rough for gays and lesbians, confirms Greg Merrill of CUAV.

Domestic violence comes in many different forms beyond the physical and verbal abuse that often comes to mind...

cause one is HIV-positive does not mean that you are not wanted by others. You should not feel trapped or that you have to stay in the relationship because of your health status."

Unprotected sex, more common in long-term relationships than in casual ones, is not often viewed as domestic violence by the larger LGBT community. However, if one partner demands unprotected sex from the other, unwilling partner, "this is an act of aggression

trate heavily on the incidence of spousal rape and date rape."

MOVE offers services

MOVE's San Francisco office is dedicated largely to gay men and has been in operation for 18 years. The agency has seen an increase of around 67 percent in the rate of reporting of domestic violence incidents in the gay community in the last year.

"About one-quarter of our cases are self-referred," MOVE's

Peter Brown told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "The other three-quarters come through the courts. In our programs," he remarks, "what we ultimately want to deliver is violence protection and to promote men's healing."

Asked if MOVE has any plans to develop a program for lesbian women, Brown said, "We have considered it. But we typically refer women to Woman Inc., the San Francisco Network for Battered Lesbians and Bisexual Women, or New Leaf. They're all excellent agencies."

New Leaf deals with substance abuse in the wider LGBT community and has worked together with MOVE in treating the problems associated with it. "It's very important to address substance abuse in cases of domestic violence," Brown stated, "because 70 percent of domestic violence arrests have drug and/or alcohol abuse in the picture. Our clients often need to address substance abuse alongside violent behavior.

The substance abuse part is where New Leaf enters," he emphasized.

James Zazueta of MOVE in San Rafael, operates an agency comprised largely of heterosexual clients. He admits "we do not deal with a lot of gay domestic violence, although it is an area we recognize as very important and needing further resources. We do receive calls [from the gay community], but most of our cases involve the straight community. However," he continues, "we will not tolerate any homophobic comments or activity in our workshops."

"There is a real opportunity here," Zazueta continues, "for other nonprofit organizations to begin programs that will deal specifically with gay violence."

Counselors at the agencies recognize that there are other types of domestic violence, like damage to or destruction of another's property; it, too, is domestic violence and should not be tolerated. If partners experience this type of violation, in itself or in addition to the other types of domestic violence discussed, seeking help is the best solution.

"We know awareness is changing," Brown concluded. "The sheer increase in the number of reports and the growth of our workshops shows that there are a lot of people out there who want to start the healing process. This is a very good thing."

In emergency situations contact the following 24-hour hotline numbers: CUAV at (415) 333-4357; San Francisco Network for Battered Lesbians and Bisexual Women at (415) 864-4722; Men Overcoming Violence (MOVE) at (415) 924-1070. Most emergency agencies accept collect calls but recommend that, if victims are in emergency situations, to call 911 to reach local police. New Leaf does not operate a hotline but may be contacted at (415) 626-7000.

SF gay center donor ups the ante; will give \$100K if challenge met

by Cynthia Laird

San Franciscan Marty Kahn, who has already donated \$50,000 to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) Community Center Project (CCP), is ready to increase his contribution to \$100,000, if other people will join him and make donations of at least \$1,000 by December 31.

As of December 1, a total of \$90,000 has been received in donations toward this challenge, said Jody Cole, CCP board member and co-chair of the center's capital campaign.

Kahn's first \$50,000 gift to the community center was also a challenge grant, meaning that every time a new donor made a gift of \$1,000 or more, Kahn matched that gift up to \$50,000. It was partly due to the success of that first challenge grant that spurred Kahn to offer the second one this month.

"I like the idea, it's a really good idea. I think San Francisco needs a community center," Kahn told the *Bay Area Reporter*. He added that he has attended various center meetings and liked what he saw. "They're trying to reach out to the whole community," he added.

The CCP is working to build a \$10.7 million, 41,000 square-foot center to serve the LGBT communities. The site is located at Market and Octavia streets and includes the historically significant Fallon Building, which will be renovated. A new building will be constructed next to the Queen Anne Victorian.

"We can reach out to the entire community and build something that is beneficial to all of us," Kahn said. "It is this sincere desire for unity and community that makes me proud to be a part of the Community Center Project."

Kahn's donation of \$100,000 would make him one of the cen-



Marty Kahn

ter's two largest sponsors; American Express has also donated \$100,000, said Cole.

CCP wins award

The building hasn't even started, yet the San Francisco LGBT

community center is already an award winner. Cole reported. In October, Gays and Lesbians in Historic Preservation presented the CCP board with an achievement award for its dedication and commitment to preserving the Fallon Building.

Additionally, the Friends of 1800 Market Street, the city of San Francisco, and the Foundation for San Francisco's Architectural Heritage each received their own award for achievement on the Fallon Building at the ceremony in Savannah, Georgia.

Last year, faced with community pressure and a successful publicity blitz by the upstart Friends of 1800 over the fate of the Victorian, CCP board members began meeting with preservationists and city officials and eventually reversed their original decision to demolish the structure that survived the 1906 earthquake. That led to not only the recent award, but also to a good

working relationship between preservationists and those involved with the center.

"Every cloud has a silver lining," Cole said. "Out of all the controversy that came out of the Fallon Building, it's encouraging to see the positive result. National attention was brought to a building in San Francisco that may have gone unnoticed. We are glad to have others join efforts with the CCP to save this building."

Fundraising for the center continues; the board is working to raise \$4.7 million for the project; San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown has committed \$6 million in funding. Groundbreaking is scheduled for September. ▼

For more information about the center, including Kahn's challenge or membership opportunities, call (415) 437-2257 or visit the website at sfgaycenter.com.

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Grovey kind of love



First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, left, visited the National AIDS Memorial Grove in Golden Gate Park last Friday, December 11 on a quick trip to the Bay Area. Clinton listened as Executive Director Thom Weiland, center, and Alice Russel-Shapiro, board co-chair, explained the concept of the Circle of Friends, which includes names of those whose lives have been touched by AIDS.

MCC/GG

◀ page 25

The move is the source of both the excitement of beginning a new journey and sadness at leaving behind her friends in San Francisco, Sutherlin told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "It's been a wonderful city for me," Sutherlin said. "It has enabled me to grow. I am grateful to everyone who had a part in that."

Sutherlin was an ordained American Baptist minister when the Reverend Jim Mitulski of Metropolitan Community Church-San Francisco recruited her to be their associate pastor in 1991. Sutherlin was called by Golden Gate MCC as their senior pastor in 1994.

"MCC-San Francisco was fortunate to experience Sharna's gifts for three very important years in our history," Mitulski told the *B.A.R.* "We are proud to be the church through which Sharna entered UFMCC [United Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches], and from which she went on to be such a successful pastor at Golden Gate. Personally it was a pleasure to reconnect with Sharna after having known her years ago in New York and to have the privilege of working with her as a colleague. We at MCC-SF wish her well."

Mitulski noted that Sutherlin "embodies that the mainline churches lose their best talent by

their anti-gay policies," adding that this has been to the advantage of MCC churches.

"I'm very proud and privileged to have served in both churches, Golden Gate MCC and MCC-San Francisco," Sutherlin told the *B.A.R.* "Both organizations make such an important contribution to the community."

Under Sutherlin's leadership, the church moved from the Polk to Noe Valley, where they own a building on Church Street. Earlier this year the roof literally fell in after El Nino rains, but has since been repaired. The damage set back some of the church's planned renovations.

Among those renovation efforts for the building is a project to install a special stained glass window. The church is raising money for the center window piece, which will be installed in Sutherlin's honor. Anyone touched by Sutherlin's ministry is invited by the church to contribute to this memorial to her ministry in San Francisco. ▼

The worship service and going away party to honor Sutherlin takes place Sunday, December 20, starting at 10:30 a.m., with the party to follow at around noon. Golden Gate MCC is located at 1508 Church Street. For more information, call (415) 642-0294.

HIV reporting

◀ page 29

the CDC says states can pick their own methods — names or codes that are stripped of any identifying characteristics. Whatever states decide, they must also allow anonymous HIV testing.

In California, state Assemblywoman Carole Migden (D-San

Francisco) is expected to re-introduce a bill that Governor Pete Wilson vetoed that would establish a unique identifier code for people. The bill had bipartisan support last time around.

The most recent CDC data shows 240,000 people living with AIDS in the United States. The agency estimates that as many as 660,000 others have HIV, but that only 500,000 of them know it. ▼

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STATEMENT FILE NO. 226918

The following person(s) are doing business as Slaton 15 Hartford St. San Francisco, CA 94117. This business is conducted by an individual signed Phillip Brooks Slaton. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 11/16/98. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 11/16/98.

NOV. 25, DEC 3, 10, 17, 1998

STATEMENT FILE NO. 227031

The following person(s) are doing business as Old Krakow 385 West Portal Ave, San Francisco, CA 94127. This business is conducted by an individual signed Tulik Krystyna. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 11/19/98. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 11/19/98.

NOV. 25, DEC 3, 10, 17, 1998

STATEMENT FILE NO. 226968

The following person(s) are doing business as Jeff Whitehead Lutherie 1617 Folsom St., San Francisco, CA 94103. This business is conducted by an individual signed Jeffrey A. Whitehead. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 11/17/98. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 11/17/98.

NOV. 25, DEC 3, 10, 17, 1998

STATEMENT FILE NO. 227203

The following person(s) are doing business as Studio Trans 677 Ellis St #2 San Francisco CA 94109. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed James M. Barker. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 11/30/98. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 12/01/98.

DEC 10, 17, 23, 31 1998

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LEGAL NOTICES

CNS 1665662

City and County of San Francisco Department of Human Services Request for Proposal #146

The City and County of San Francisco Department of Human Services (SFDHS) announces its intent to seek proposals from organizations interested in contracting to provide a 30-bed emergency center for young adults, including an overnight emergency shelter and on-site daytime services for shelter residents.

An amount not to exceed \$660,000 will be made available for a 16-month period beginning March 1, 1999.

An RFP packet may be picked up at SFDHS Office of Contract Compliance, 170 Otis, 8th Floor beginning December 8, 1998. Office hours are from 8 am to 5 pm. For a mailed copy contact David Rees at 557-5585. Proposals are due 1/22/99 at 2:00 p.m. NO EXCEPTIONS. Faxes are not accepted.

Questions regarding the RFP may be directed to David Rees, Senior Contract Manager, at 415-557-5585.

STATEMENT FILE NO. 227412

The following person(s) are doing business as Eight Street Art & Furniture Gallery 1201 8th St. San Francisco, CA 94107. This business is conducted by co-partners Peter Alexander, David Baughan, signed Peter Alexander. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 12/10/98. DEC 17, 23, 31 JAN 7, 1998

STATEMENT FILE NO. 227487

The following person(s) are doing business as Arthur Robinson Associates 2261 Market St #314 San Francisco CA 94114. Urs Blanc Inc (A Calif Corp). This business is conducted by a corporation signed Arthur Robinson president. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 8/14/96. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 12/15/98. DEC 17, 23, 31 JAN 7, 1998

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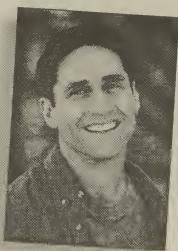
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 Roger Ridgway, Pastor
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<http://welcometo/dsbc>; E-mail:Doloresstreetchurch@mailexcite.com
 The Reverend Doug Donley, Pastor
 Please join us for worship this Holiday Season
 * Sunday, December 20
 * Bible Study 9:30 AM
 * Worship 11:00 AM
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<http://www.computergeeks.com/sfmenco/>
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 * Fellowship 10:30 AM
 * Christian Education 11:00 AM
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<http://home.pacbell.net/stjohnsf>; E-mail: stjohnsf@pacbell.net
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 * Christmas Day Festival Eucharist 11:00 AM
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Noe Valley

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1268 Sanchez Street at Clipper, SF 415.647-8393
 The Reverend Karen P. Oliveto, Pastor
 * Sunday, December 20th
 * Community Christmas Dinner & Candlelight Concert 5:00 PM
 * Christmas Eve
 * A Service for the Child in All of Us 5:00 PM
 * Traditional Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols 10:30 PM
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455 Fair Oaks Street, SF 415.824-5142
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<http://www.diocal.org/holynsf>
 The Reverend Armand Kreft, Vicar

* Christmas Eve 5:00 PM
 * Family Service 10:30 PM
 * Choir Concert 11:00 PM
 * Festival Eucharist 11:00 PM
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 * Weekly Sunday Worship 10:00 AM
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 The Reverend Schuyler Rhodes, Campus Director
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 * Jazz/Gospel Worship: Sundays (Trinity UMC Chapel; All are welcome!) 7:00 PM
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 English 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM & 12:15 PM
 Spanish (Sunday) 10:30 AM
 Vietnamese (Sunday) 3:30 PM
 * Living Manger: December 19 through 22 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM
 * Healing Mass every last Sunday of the Month 5:30 PM
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United Church of Christ

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 * Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 8:00 PM
 * Weekly Sunday Worship 11:00 AM

An Open and Affirming Church

Potrero Hill

St. Gregory Nyssen Episcopal Church

500 DeHaro Street at Mariposa, SF 415.255-8100
 The Reverends Richard Fabian & Donald Schell, Rectors
 * Christmas Eve Eucharist 6:00 PM
 * Weekly Saturday Worship 5:00 PM
 * Weekly Sunday Worship 8:00 AM & 10:00 AM
Come sing and dance to Jesus' lead Welcoming all people into God's friendship

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Peninsula

Redwood City

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

178 Clinton Street, Redwood City 650.367-0777
 (Between Broadway and Brewster)
 * Christmas Eve
 * Holy Eucharist (Family Service) 7:00 PM
 * Carols in the Courtyard 10:30 PM
 * Solemn Eucharist 11:00 PM
 * Holy Eucharist for Christmas Day 10:00 AM
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East Bay

First Congregational Church of Berkeley

United Church of Christ

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 * Family Carol Sing 9:40 AM
 * Worship 10:00 AM
 * Organ Recital: Larry Marietta, Organist (Sanctuary) 4:00 PM
 * BodySpirit Celebration (Small Assembly) 7:00 PM
 * Christmas Eve
 * Family Service 5:00 PM
 * Candlelight & Carol Service (Organ & Brass Prelude 8:40) 9:00 PM
 * Candlelight & Carol Service (Organ & Brass Prelude 10:40) 11:00 PM
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 * Traditional Service 11:00 PM
 * Christmas Day Worship Service 11:00 AM

Van Ness/Polk

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 * Lessons & Carols 5:30 PM
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 * December 20th: Advent Lessons & Carols 10:00 AM
 * Christmas Eve Solemn Mass 9:00 PM
 * Christmas Day Mass 10:00 AM

Castro

Metropolitan Community Church

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 * Christmas Eve Candlelight Holy Communion Services with Festival Choir & Orchestra 7:00 PM, 9:00 PM & 11:00 PM
 * Christmas Morning Worship 10:00 AM
 * Community Christmas Dinner at Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy 12:00 NOON
 * Weekly Sunday Worship 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM, 7:00 PM
 * Weekly Wednesday Evening Candlelight Prayer 7:00 PM
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 Layout: Michael Cronin, MCC/SF

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 * Christmas Eve Celebrations
 * A celebration for children and their families 5:00 PM
 * Traditional communion and Candlelight celebration 11:00 PM
 * Weekly Sunday Morning Worship (Child care available) 10:00 AM
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Gilles'; Austrian avant-gardist Kurt Kren.
pages 41-42

Leather seen
David DeCouteau's
'Leather Jacket Love Story'.
page 41



Having a 'Nut'
Mark Morris Dance
Group's 'The Hard Nut.'
page 45



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 28 • No. 51 • 17 December 1998

Brain teasers

Amy Adler, Charles Ray, Kay Rosen:
Smart art in L.A. by Glen Helfand



A recent article in the *New York Times* brazenly suggested the cultural gaps between Manhattan and Los Angeles are disappearing. The hyperbolic lifestyle piece suggested that as Gotham begins to appreciate California cuisine and be a haven for Hollywood-fleeing celebs, the City of Angels is catching up in the brain-power department. Oddly enough, there may be some truth in all this.

The three thought-provoking exhibitions by Angelenos Amy Adler and Charles Ray and Midwesterner Kay Rosen currently at LA's Museum of Contemporary Art are infused with the kind brain-teasing conceptual art strategies that one usually associates with the Big Apple. That MOCA offers little in the way of didactic materials suggests that local audiences are up to the challenge.

There's a major undercurrent of sexual discomfort in the first museum solo show by young LA artist Amy Adler.

Working in the wake of what curator Connie Butler calls "post queer chic," Adler investigates a very specific, but not queer-exclusive aspect of sexuality — that is, the formative moments of sexual identity.

Adler's show begins with the image of a crouching boyish figure, caught from behind. Bright red pants are bunched around the ankles, while a heavy shadow, the kind left by an unforgiving snapshot flash, appears in front of the figure. It's an image of the adolescent artist herself, rendered in a frightfully postmodern form of mixed media — the pastel shades of flesh and hair have been colored in over a photograph, which is visible in the crisper clothing and shadow. Together, the forms of drawing and photography have been digitally manipulated and fused into a single photographic image.

With hybrid images like this one, Adler sets forth an ambivalent look about identity and representation. She brings up difficult questions on a culture that's quick to cry pederasty at any direct look at pubescent sexuality. The images in this show focus on various youngsters, frequently the artist herself, as presented through the mediated eyes of adult photographers, authors, movie directors and psychologists. She makes reference to Jody Foster's film *Little Man Tate*, Alfred Adler's famous book of childhood psychology *The Problem Child*, and the kind of fresh-faced athletic boys that Bruce Weber rounds up for Abercrombie and Fitch catalog spreads. The queerness in these images rests in this aspect of puerile freshness, an attribute that is fetishized uniquely in gay and lesbian culture, where notions of androgyny and the "third sex" are often equated with the smooth skin of pubescence.

Fleeting youth

In her form and content, Adler explores just such discomfiting realms of in-between. Her interest lies in the tenuousness of innocence, and she often presents that unrepeatable combo of wide eyes and raging hormones in a highly conceptualized form. She aims to recapture and rethink those fleeting moments of youth through the act of drawing herself with her own adult hand. She suggests that this is also a transitory process by destroying her drawings once they are grafted into the remade picture.

The media-conflating process deepens the meaning of Adler's pictures, as her rendering style doesn't exactly stand on its own. The drawn portions of her pieces are flat and am-

page 50 ►

Fall '91, by Charles Ray,
1992, mixed media,
8 feet in height



Ace, by Amy Adler, 1997,
50" x 40" cibachrome print

OUT THERE

"PLenty OF NAKED GUYS!"

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- Kevin Thomas, LOS ANGELES TIMES

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by Roberto Friedman
and Santa Satan

Levels of devils: Just as there are descending circles of hell in Dante's Inferno, so there are different levels of Xmas Hell, and now that the holiday season is bearing down upon us full-steam, let's examine them, shall we?

The first level down in Xmas Hell is reserved for those individuals who feel compelled to sprinkle holiday glitter into their festive Xmas cards and correspondence (and press materials) so that when the unsuspecting recipient tears open the envelope, the marvelous shiny stuff sprinkles into his lap, onto his desk, into his keyboard, wherever he happens to be. Months later, the lucky letter-giver is still picking little gilt Xmas trees and wreaths out of his personal environment. To all these compulsive glitterers, we say: thanks for sharing and shoveling it in. You're special.

The second level down in Noel Hell is a dedicated place for chirpy shopclerk who insist on mixing church and state, along with our change. "Merry Xmas!" they declare to us with that special holiday glint in their eye.

"Er, thanks, but we're Jewish." "Oh, well, Happy Chanuka, then."

Chanuka, Hanukkah: every year, as the resident Hebrew on staff, we get the spelling questions. But the truth is, Hanukkah is a minor Jewish holiday celebrating

a military victory. Its prominence in the American consciousness owes no little debt to its proximity to Xmas. Read: Jewish children and presents, and the need to unite them. It is, in short, the Kwanzaa of the Hebrew calendar.

The third level down in holiday hell is surely a VIP room for those neo-pagans who are so earthly serious about the winter solstice. Somehow the fact that the day is the shortest of the year energizes them in a way that the availability of daylight hours during the rest of the year does not. What difference do the intricacies of the planet's orbit truly make to the vampires among us who sleep away the brightest hours of the morning, only to crawl the city by night? OK, we're kidding, we love a vampire.

But we've saved the bottom-most level of hell this holiday season as a special 24-hour facility for Xmas-addicted cultural movers, shakers and programmers. What is it about Xmas time that eggs on their obsessive-compulsive syndrome? Let's watch the same three "holiday movies" over and over again! Those "camp" Xmas musicals were such a big hit last year and the year before that, and the year before that, let's put 'em all on, all over again! Time to snuggle up to the Tube and view *How the Grinch Stole Credit Cards* and *Rudolf the S/M Reindeer* for the 387th time! We can barely bring ourselves to mention the horror of the airwaves, those ubiquitous Xmas carols, which in our view make a pretty good case for the comparative virtues of Tourette syndrome.

Mixed nuts

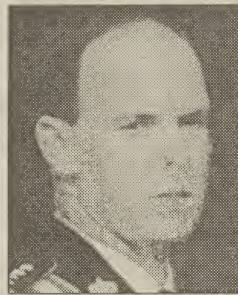
One holiday perennial we don't mind so much is the inevitable *Nutcracker*, productions of which are currently being danced by the San Francisco and Oakland Ballets. We've always believed *Nutcracker* was Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky's little stab at homosexual subversion. Consider: a little girl (read: queer boy), Marie, is obsessed by her Uncle Drosselmeyer's (read: leather daddy) fetish gift of a *Nutcracker* (read: sex stud) which magically comes to life (read: Viagra). Now let's see if we've got this right: As the Nutcracker, you put your nuts between this guy's muscular thighs and squeeze them tight... The Nutcracker defeats the Mouse King's (Ralph Reed) army and takes Marie to the Kingdom of Sweets (San Francisco). Now that's our idea of a real holiday classic.

Royal scuttlebutt

You know what kind of book *The Royal House of Monaco* will

turn out to be when its press release trumpets, "What **Kitty Kelley** did for the **Windsors** of England, **John Glatt** does for the **Grimaldis** of Monaco!" Our only question is: does he do it from on top or behind?

Glatt's tome, newly published by the increasingly bottom-feeding St. Martin's Press, is subtitled, *Dynasty of Glamour, Tragedy and Scandal*, and runs the gamut from **Grace Kelly**'s marriage to **Prince Rainier** and her tragic end to the wild lives of the **Princesses Caroline** and **Stephanie**. Out There's interest, of course, centered largely around all those persistent rumors about the male heir to the throne, Albert, and his alleged homosexual trysts. As if to anticipate these very rumors, Glatt offers Prince A, a pre-emptive chance to rebut them:



Prince Albert

"I was hurt at first," **Prince Albert** said candidly [about the scuttlebutt]. "It's not pleasant for anyone to question your masculinity. But now I just laugh at it. I mean, the people that are important to me know that I have never even been close to that, so I have no problems. I mean, I do have problems with it, but I just don't pay attention." Clear as a bell — er, somewhat.

But later in the same chapter we learn: "It was one of the proudest moments of the Prince's life when he led his team at the opening ceremonies at the Calgary Winter Olympics. Albert insisted on being treated like any other athlete and stayed in the Olympic Village with his teammates.

"We call him Big Al," said **Mike Aljoe**, a brakeman for the US Bobsled Team. "We hit on him and stuff. We throw him around. He's a good guy."

Hmm. In his gear bag, we learn, Prince Albert carried all sorts of real man-stuff — including a roll of toilet paper.

"You never know what you're going to find in some of these places," he said.

Finally, an important correction: *EastEnders* airs in the Bay Area on Channel 54, not on Channel 9, as suggested in *The Lavender Tube* last week. It's still worth checking out. ▼

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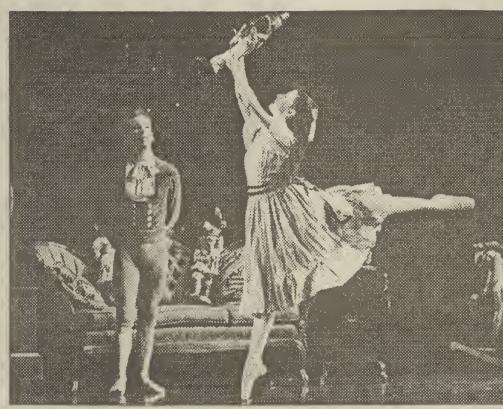
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Ben Barnhart and Gianna Davy in Oakland Ballet's Nutcracker.

Marty Sohl

THEATRE

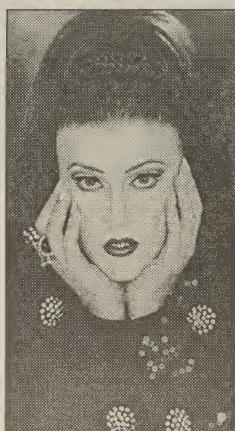
Varla Jean Merman at Josie's Cabaret Cheap date return

by Richard Dodds

Varla Jean Merman is back in San Francisco sooner than she expected. Planning on a return to Josie's Cabaret and Juice Joint in February with a new show, she instead "whipped up" a Christmas show to be part of the decamping venue's last hurrah. Merman's *Holiday Ham* may not be as smoothly glazed as *I, Who Have Nothing*, her 1997 outing at Josie's, but there are still numerous choice morsels, and, besides, who knows where or when we will be able to see this peerless drag diva again?

Merman solemnly makes her entrance carrying a candle while singing "Ave Maria" in a voice that continues to surprise with its range, size, and coloratura highlights. "Oh, Jesus," she mutters, briefly losing her piousness when a drop of hot wax burns her hand, before returning to a holy mode.

Merman, the stage name of Jeffrey Roberson, uses drag as a means to deconstruct show-business pretensions and clichés in all manner of ways. That there is a talented performer with a voice behind the travesties provides a



Varla Jean Merman

second layer of entertainment. When, for example, she mimics Barbra Streisand's clipped version of "Jingle Bells," it's fun to hear, but she also adds some over-the-edge body language that hilariously undermines the manic musical arrangement.

From the show-in-progress

that she had planned to present here in February, Merman gently sings Patti Page's "Mockingbird Hill" while an elaborate video starts with syrupy-sweet birdie imagery before turning into a Hitchcockian nightmare. Less successful is Merman's sing-along to clips from the 1960s stop-action animated version of *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*. But another TV holiday classic provides a classic Merman moment as she turns the theme song from *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* into something out of an early James Bond film, complete with karate-chop choreography.

Merman is ably accompanied by the two-piece Lounge-o-Leers, although her bits and duets with the comically unblissed keyboardist are among the show's weakest moments. Merman is so good at what she does that we don't really want her to share the spotlight. ▶

Varla Jean Merman's Holiday Ham will run through Dec. 20 at Josie's. She will also offer a "greatest hits" show on Dec. 29-31. Tickets are \$15. Call 861-7933.

Rare Sondheim TNT Records' 'Follies'

by John F. Karr

Perhaps the biggest folly lies in chasing the perfect recording of *Follies*. Although the 1971 original cast album on Angel CDs has the perfect cast, the score was severely truncated, with only 58 minutes of material. A double-disc RCA "complete" set was recorded live during a Lincoln Center concert performance in 1985, and with 84 minutes of material, was meant to remedy the first's brevity. But it turned out to be a crazed succession of celebrity turns not truly reflective of the show. The third recording, of the original London cast, replaced four songs with four new ones. Now, TNT Records aims at a "definitive" recording with their new double CD of the recent Paper Mill Playhouse revival. This production's lack of final stage polish prevented the authors from allowing its rumored transfer to Broadway, and that same lack prevents the performances as documented in this recording from being cherishable, but not from letting us cherish the show.

So although this may not be the best of all possible *Follies*, it is all of *Follies*. It's not complete, with every song, plus dance arrangements, underscoring, and internal dialogue intact — 90 full minutes. The set's final glory is its appendix to the full score, with eight songs cut or replaced during the show's gestation. The highlight of this half-hour is two songs which, despite their having been cut from the show, have never been removed from its overture. *All Things Bright and Beautiful* brings words to the mournful waltz that begins the entire evening, followed by the jagged

rag *That Old Piano Roll*. The big-name cast give impressive performances without being — here's that word again — definitive, with the possible exceptions of Dee Hoty as Phyllis Rogers and Donna McKechnie as Sally Durant. Her role is something of an apotheosis for the Widow Bennett, whose sunflower personality is perfect for it, and who splendidly acts her way through the limitations of a thin voice and shallow breath. McKechnie's not the "pure" singer we've had in this role, but she's wonderful in it. Hoty brings more voice to her role than it has ever known, and some striking acting chops, too.

As their husbands, Laurence Guittard and Tony Roberts tend to oversing, but are solid, authoritative. And if you can't imagine the vaudevillians going down on one knee and knocking it out to the second balcony, à la Jolson, they're still likable. Liliane Montevecchi improves on her earlier recording of "Ah, Paris," Kaye Ballard belts out "Broadway Baby," and Ann Miller, if one-note and lacking in irony, provides a secure "I'm Still Here." Phyllis Newman sings Stella Deems, famed choreographer Donald Saddler takes a turn, and there's an excellent quartet of juveniles as the "ghosts," plus a swell chorus.

The theatricality of the album is heightened by the presence of the dance music, especially "Bolero D'Amore," the instrumental which accompanies the adagio dance team's turn. Sondheim declined to include it during the Lincoln Center concerts, because he didn't write it. But it makes its recorded debut here, and it's a classic piece in the old Broadway style — woodblocks

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JULIA SCHER



FINAL WEEKS

Image: Julia Scher, a video still from 'Predictive Engineering', 1998 (courtesy of the artist)

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Credit fraud

by Michael Petrelis

Stagestruck: Theater, AIDS, and the Marketing of Gay America by Sarah Schulman; Duke University Press, \$14.95

If you enjoyed Jonathan Larson's Broadway musical *Rent*, you'd likely find Sarah Schulman's novel *People in Trouble* similarly pleasing, not only because it was an uncredited source for the stage hit, but also because it is a funny story about almost identical characters facing the same dilemmas as their theatrical counterparts.

Schulman's new book *Stagestruck: Theater, AIDS, and the Marketing of Gay America* primarily concerns her battles to find justice after her novel was allegedly plagiarized by Larson. Secondly, she analyzes the New York stage, niche marketing to gays, lesbians and people with AIDS as consumers, and how heterosexuals have culturally been made the heroes of the AIDS crisis.

The book is divided into three sections, and the first is the best because it is full of gossip and truth. It details Schulman's short career as a theater critic for the *NY Press*, which as she puts it, is a "right-wing alternative to the liberal *Village Voice*," and how she found plotlines and characters from her novel were grafted onto *Rent* when she reviewed it. The almost comical path she traveled seeking redress is surprisingly free of bitterness, even though she had a legitimate case against the deceased creator and his estate. Schulman's editors, agents and publisher all failed to see merit in suing Larson's survivors, despite explicit similarities between the works such as, "The woman in the middle [of a love triangle], in both pieces, is a performance artist who does a performance that defeats the greedy landlord evicting people with AIDS, which serves as a cathartic plot point for both works." Schulman was left with no option other than to make the alleged plagiarism a news story.

That would have been easy enough if the majority of mainstream news outlets in Manhattan,



The company in a scene from *Rent*.

tan, who all hyped *Rent* endlessly, hadn't helped create the rags-to-riches myth about the musical and its deceased composer.

Schulman directly admits mistakes, like when she thought that "Jonathan Larson was gay and that he died of AIDS." Why did she make this assumption? "What else do white men die of at 35 in my universe?" she asks (Schulman was an ACT UP/New York member for seven years). "Actually, he was straight and died of aortic aneurysm."

When she realized that as a working-class out lesbian writer, without any corporate or institutional backing, she has a snowball's chance in hell of ever being compensated or acknowledged as unknowingly providing inspiration for significant parts of *Rent*, she pleaded with her editor. "It might be in her company's best interest to let some stores and publications know about this [plagiarism] so that they could sell more books." The publisher of *People in Trouble* rejected her proposal. She never found a lawyer willing to take her case, despite much legal curiosity. Indeed, one powerful attorney slowly reviewed her materials, lulling her into believing he might represent her. After examining all her documentation, he ungraciously decided to represent the Larson family, a conflict of interest that eventually forced the family to drop him as their legal counsel.

Circle games

A small downside in the book's second part is all the inside scoop on the New York media and theater worlds, which may not mean much to folks outside those circles. Schulman fails to find the universality of her complaints, or of solutions she suggests. For example, though she justifiably criticizes the lack of lesbian-written

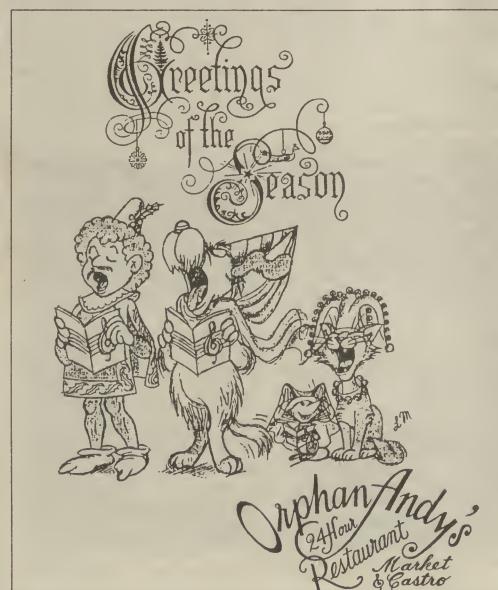
plays with lesbian characters created and produced at Joseph Papp's Public Theater, with its longtime commitment to multicultural writers and audiences, the larger issue is why so few resources exist anywhere in America for lesbian-originated theater. When was the last time you saw an A.C.T. production of a lesbian-themed play, or one by a lesbian?

Schulman is not a politically-correct writer, however. She believes "a personal vendetta by Jesse Helms has not been shown to be as devastating to an artist's development and career as a personal vendetta by a writer at the *Village Voice*." Ouch, let's hope conservatives in Congress don't read that.

The book's third section, "Selling AIDS and Other Consequences of the Commodification of Homosexuality," is intelligent in its deconstruction of niche marketing to our community, and how commercialization affects the political agenda at the national level.

Gay niche marketing resources crafted by a gay ad agency, cited by Schulman, reveal how "gay men have been credited with popularizing blow dryers, painter's pants, the gentrification of urban neighborhoods," and many brand-name products. Schulman skewers such thinking. "The first item is blow jobs, oops, I mean blow dryers. Whether or not the resonance between these two terms is deliberate or unconscious, it does evoke images of poodles, hairdressers, oral sex, and flagrant effeminacy." She does have a humorous point, and I can't use my blow dryer now without thinking it's a phallus.

Whether you are familiar with *People in Trouble*, *Rent*, or recent gay and AIDS plays on Broadway, *Stagestruck* is worth reading. The politics are progressive, the jokes give chuckles, and Schulman's creative spirit flourishes throughout. ▼



FILM

Silverlake cowhide confab

'Leather Jacket Love Story'

by Robert Julian

Kyle, an 18-year-old aspiring poet, has been "out" since puberty. Sitting around his best friend's swimming pool as two gay hunks strip down for a swim, Kyle complains about his growing ennui with the West Hollywood scene. He resolves to spend his last summer before college living in Silverlake, where "it's hip, it's gay, and poets are everywhere." This life-changing relocation (a bit like moving from the Castro to Noe Valley) serves as the impetus for *Leather Jacket Love Story*, a gay romantic fantasy from director David DeCoteau.

Those who know Silverlake might quibble with the assertion that it is a poetry ghetto, and in the film we meet more drag queens than poets; DeCoteau's Silverlake bears about as much resemblance to the real thing as Disneyland. Screenwriter Rondo Mieczkowski gives us poetry readings in a small cafe, and a Greek

chorus of three drag queens who deliver cloying, stereotypical dish when they're not beating up the punks who attempt to fag-bash young Kyle. Yes, this Silverlake — shot in grainy black-and-white by cinematographer Howard Wexler — is home to a merry band of queer pranksters.

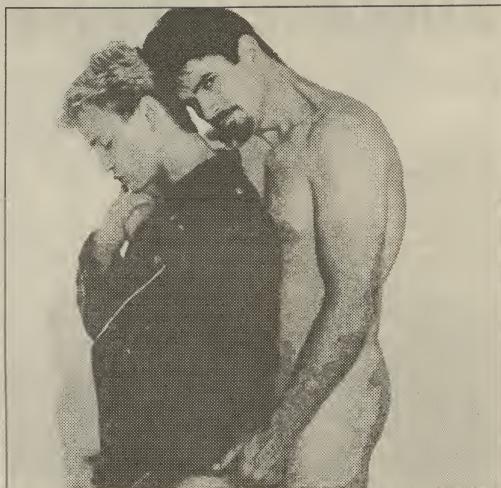
On his first night in Silverlake, Kyle meets and falls in love with 30-year-old Mike, a carpenter who strolls into the cafe with goatee and attitude rising above his black leather jacket. The two guys fuck all night, and the next morning, Kyle goes out and buys a matching leather jacket, giving birth to yet another matched pair of gay lovers. This one-night stand is the love story of the title, and although there are trials, tribulations, nipple-piercing, and sex clubs in their next 48 hours, our young lovers work things out in the end.

The end du jour, Sean Tataryn, plays Kyle (the bottom) as an urban Huck Finn. Badly in need of orthodontia, Tataryn is all pouty-

lipped and pimpled, and bears a strong resemblance to a young Elizabeth Scott. His Kyle is a naive young kid whose sexual experience has not triggered the onset of maturity. Mike (the top) is played by Christopher Bradley, whose big blue eyes come across even in black-and-white. Bradley is the more accomplished actor, and it would be interesting to see what he could do with a better script.

In what could be the coda for this film, one drag queen advises the young aspiring poet, "You have to put yourself out there, no matter how scary it is." But this year's release of *Broadway Damage* set the standard for terrifyingly mindless queer sex farces, a standard one hopes will never again be equaled. Comparing *Leather Jacket Love Story* to *Broadway Damage* is a bit like comparing *The Wedding Singer* to *The Waterboy*. Both gay films are from the same genre, but *Leather Jacket Love Story* is the less offensive offering. Even those who view cowhide as an aphrodisiac will find little to celebrate in this innocuous concoction, although the film's frank and realistic portrayal of gay love-making is commendable. ▶

Leather Jacket Love Story opens Friday, December 18 at the Lumiere in San Francisco, and the Towne Theatre in San Jose.



Matthew Mitchell

Sean Tataryn and Christopher Bradley in *Leather Jacket Love Story*

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Order behind chaos

Kurt Kren's radical cinema

by Gary Morris

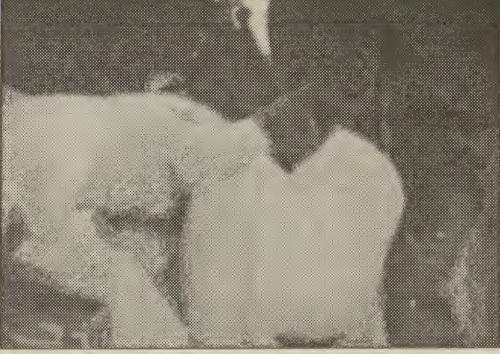
The exigencies of living and working miles from the mainstream can prevent even the most noteworthy artists from achieving the kind of renown their work would seem to warrant. This has been the unfortunate fate of the late Austrian filmmaker Kurt Kren (1929-1998), whose films predate and predict many of the strategies of present-day radical art. In one aspect of his career, documenting the work of some of his wilder associates in the Austrian avant-garde, he arguably helped prepare us for groups like Survival Research Laboratories, body outlaws, and modern primitives — gay, straight, and all other variants.

Called the "father of postwar European avant-garde cinema" and regarded in some circles as the continental equivalent of America's Stan Brakhage, Kren was an unlikely pioneer. A bank cashier by trade and by all accounts rather elfin, charming, and unassuming in manner, Kren

began making experimental short films in 8mm in the early 1950s, moving up to 16mm in 1957. His subjects were everyday objects — walls, trees, people — but manipulated according to amusingly elaborate diagrams and charts that showed a sensibility both rigorous and whimsical. The effect in one of his earliest official works, *4/6: Walls, Positive and Negative*, is hypnotic; as the title implies, it's a series of strobe-rapid shots of walls, alternating in hard rhythms to induce a kind of dream state in the viewer.

In *9/64: O Tannenbaum* — all Kren's films are named by the order in which they were made (9) and their year of execution (64) — the filmmaker documents a ritual by members of Vienna's renegade Direct Art, Material Action group, with whom he had become associated. This explicit film juxtaposes disturbingly intense imagery — blood, paint, eggs, feathers, and candlewax smeared all over naked, writhing men and women — with the comic element of a pathetically ragged Christmas tree on top of

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'Pierre et Gilles: Love Stories' Surface qualities

by Gary Morris

The art of Pierre and Gilles, affectionately known as P&G, has always been a little suspect, like the work of another modern master of the overwrought, Jeff Koons. Critics haven't always been kind to the fortysomething French duo, dismissing them early on as "kitsch." Their association with the coddled world of haute couture — creating covers for fashion rags like *Marie Claire* and invitations to shows by Thierry Mugler — hasn't boosted their standing as court jesters to everything slick, superficial, and ultimately empty in modern culture.

Of course, critics can never deter camp followers, and the latter have found much to celebrate in this art, which is in a sense a vastly overblown version of the drag queen's ritual of applying makeup. P&G's stylistic strategy is simple: they collaborate on setting up a bizarre tableau often involving a naked or half-naked male (occasionally female) model, truckloads of feathers, flowers, glitter, and sometimes stage blood, and then photograph the model trapped in this suffocatingly beautiful mise-en-scene. Pierre takes the picture and blows it up, and then Gilles sets to work altering it, radically overlaying a saturated Technicolor palette on the image, transposing a street hustler into St.

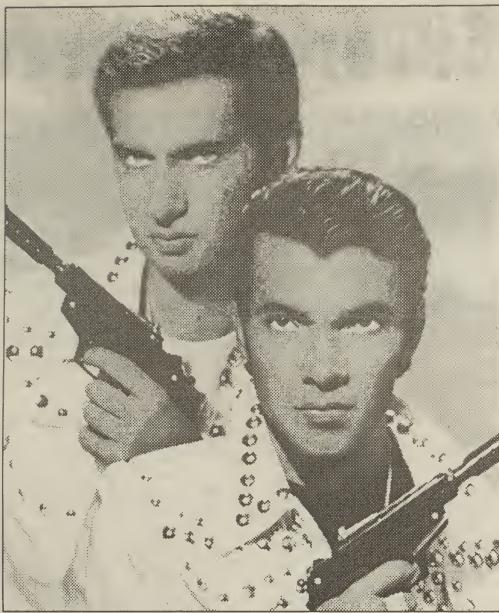
Anthony, or Madonna into a perhaps appropriate Medusa. Their style most resembles the gaudy paintings of saints common in Mexican folk art, or those blazing, festooned images of Hindu gods available as posters in your local Indian grocery.

Mike Aho followed P&G around for a year or so to make his hour-long documentary *Pierre et Gilles: Love Stories*, a ragged but enjoyable exercise in fan worship. He makes no attempt to contextualize them, but this is probably inevitable given the lives of his subject. Indeed, we know little more about the duo by film's end than we did at the start. What we do see is that the boys are inveterate sceneros, surrounded by a virtual army of queens, fag-hags, hustlers, art-hags, and admirers; and the party, almost more than the art, is the point. The art memorializes the party, and freezes the attendees at their most voluptuous, robust, and sensual. As one of them says, "Nothing touches their actors ... they exist in a dream aura." Another comment on the unvarying sunniness of P&G's disposition: "They are the only people I know who are always the same" — not unlike the airbrush-smoothed faces of their models, from whom every trace of aging or imperfection or doubt has been removed. P&G energetically disprove the cliché of the angst-ridden artist.

Fan power

One of their obsessions is stardom — "they love popular stars like Joan Collins," one queen opines — and one of the most revered is a big fan: Catherine Deneuve, who has posed for them. Deneuve is surprisingly insightful in discussing their work; she sounds almost like an art critic, in spite of her consistent praise. Others who extol their work here include Rupert Everett and Nina Hagen, who also modeled for them bound in shiny latex with her trademark mock-shocked look. Hagen is in her usual operatic mode, one minute admiring P&G, the next singing and prattling about outer space.

The almost nauseating narcissism that underlies their scene is evident from one of their models, a sleek, self-absorbed male diva named Enzo who lounges naked on a rug and pontificates on P&G's ability to "interpret" him. "I've done seven images with P&G, and they've captured all of me, I'd say." (It's doubtful that more than one image was necessary for this.) Enzo was part of the artists' infamous *Bad Boys* series, which samples the archetypes of homosexual mythology in nude or nearly nude imagery: hustler, leatherman, sailor, etc. In each case, P&G try to find the "saint" in their subject, but the filmmaker interviews these models and in doing so, reminds us of what the artists try valiantly to hide: that the creature fixed forever as a god



Pierre et Gilles

From *Pierre et Gilles: Love Stories*.

Frameline presents *Pierre & Gilles: Love Stories* on Wed., Dec. 23 at 8 p.m. at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Screening Room. Call 978-ARTS.

Damage report

Cassavetes' 'Love Streams'

by Gary Morris

Independent cinema, like "alternative" music, is increasingly difficult to recognize these days. The indie movement has its own set of conventions that make it as much a copy of as a challenge to its alleged nemesis, the mainstream. It's only a few mental steps from the Hollywood star to his or her slacker variant. Raging egos, star fits, ruthless self-promotion, and unabashed greed are as omnipresent in the alleged underground as in the mainstream.

Nowadays, cinematic innovation is easier to find by looking backward. A superb case in point is John Cassavetes' last film, *Love*

Streams (1984), made five years before he died. Cassavetes wore his reputation for intransigence like a crown; he simply refused to bow to the endless reshaping and recutting of his films that would have made him a beloved and successful hack. Instead, starting in 1960 with *Shadows*, he turned out a wrenching series of closely observed melodramas — critiques of romantic and sexual relations in modern American life — that still seem fresh today. The rarely screened *Love Streams* is among his longest, least compromised, and most demanding works. It's also one of the most rewarding.

The film is a series of extended vignettes, some of them impro-

next page ►



John Cassavetes and Gena Rowlands in *Love Streams*

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MUSIC

Not one of the reindeer

Rufus Wainwright makes an impression

by Tim Pfaff

Rufus Wainwright got my attention long before I heard him perform. "I love being gay," the 25-year-old Canadian-born troubadour quipped in one of the many interviews (perhaps even in this paper) timed with the release earlier this year of his debut CD for DreamWorks, "but the music's so bad." While that made it clear that he was singing my song, it didn't answer any questions about his.

A quick spin of his CD announced one of the most infectiously original talents to hit the scene since Tori Amos — who as a musician he in many ways resembles, not the least in the powerful piano-playing and a predilection for writing and performing his own music. But at the other pole of the songs of his torch-singer counterpart, Wainwright's music is oddly yet unmistakably upbeat. From the start, it made me feel better. Even at their darkest, his songs exhibit a loopy take on life that makes lines like "It feels like a long way down" seem altogether bearable, at least while Wainwright is carrying on about it (and carry on he does).

Only time will tell whether this saucy, sassy LA transplant is now or soon will be writing the gay music of the future. But if the startlingly wide age range of gay audience members in the packed Great American Music Hall for his set on December 6 is any indication, he's on to something.

There's nothing standard-issue about this guy, from his wacky cuteness (his one reference to a "hair moment" saluted one of the weirder coifs in the business) to his enormously fetching voice — a flexible, powerful, ecstasy-inclined instrument that loops, croons, leaps and buzzes through melody lines with consistently startling twists and turns and is positively fearless about singing off the top and bottom of its range. If the Opera had produced a few more voices with the all-important paired qualities of Wainwright's — instant recognizability and high memorability — the season now expiring at the War Memorial might not have seemed so much like battle fatigue.

There were signs of promo-

tional-tour exhaustion in Wainwright's generous show — but stronger indications of stage personality with the size and drive to prevail. (He treated his band like servants and seemed far more comfortable accompanying himself on piano and, far more weirdly, guitar. Unapologetic beer belches into the mike between numbers suggested that this is not a demure ego.)

Most of his Music Hall material was from his CD, the differences in live performance being, on the positive side, far greater urgency, and on the negative, less intelligibility of already difficult lyrics.

Among his few new songs were a tribute to LA that the Angeleno Chamber of Commerce won't be snapping up anytime soon and another called "The Greek," about a satyr-like local Wainwright was not able to connect with on a recent trip to the Greek islands. Both proved to be very funny stuff from a performer whose future may well rest on the distance he's put between himself and anybody else's idea of clone.

Holiday homo fare

For good or ill, Rufus is not one of the goddamn reindeer, and there is this matter of holiday music to contend with. If you need to buy one of the new holiday CDs, the obvious choice is the Kirov Orchestra's new recording of *Nutcracker* conducted by Valery Gergiev on Philips — the best recording of *Nutcracker* since the last one on Philips, conducted by Semyon Bychkov. This is strictly adult fare, so if you're more interested in top-flight dance music by a red-blooded Russian homosexual than in homogenized sugar plum fairies, this is the one for you.

If, on the other hand, you're inclined to something more spiritual, there's a new re-release that wins my holiday-record-of-the-year award hands down: Hugo Distler's *Die Weihnachtsgeschichte* ("The Christmas Story") on Berlin Classics. I first encountered this hauntingly beautiful music of 1933 entirely by chance, in a live performance when I was in high school. It was a deeply stirring experience I longed to relive — but found myself unable to locate so much as a recording for decades. Last season, Chanticleer made it



the centerpiece of its annual Christmas concert, and I was moved as deeply after all those years. Still, no available recording. Then along came Berlin Classics with its new CD release of a fine 1979 German recording. It's the only seasonal music I've listened to this year, and it's filled me up completely.

An accomplished and sensitive composer who played a central role in the development of choral music in his native Germany between the world wars, the Lutheran Distler joined countless of his Jewish colleagues in finding his work proclaimed "degenerate" by the Nazis. Driven to the depths of despair by the crushing inhumanity of Hitler's war, he committed suicide in Berlin in 1942. It's the sensitivity at that level, rather than the despair, that one hears in the earlier *Weihnachtsgeschichte*.

The narrative of Jesus' birth as told in the gospels of Matthew and Luke is rendered in a kind of plainsong delicately touched by the finger of modernism. It's



Rufus Wainwright, he of the enormously fetching instrument

David Gahr

framed by two large-scale motets ("The people that walked in darkness" and "For God so loved the world") and interspersed with seven settings of the verses of the greatest of German carols, "Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen" ("Lo how a rose e'er blooming"), each more complex and heart-rending than the previous. The entire piece lasts a mere 45 minutes, but a listener emerges changed. The performance by the Leipzig Thomannerchor under Hans-Joachim Rötzsch (who also sings the role of the Evangelist) is, if not perfect, perfectly human, and I've felt a

deeper affection for it at every hearing.

This year, Chanticleer's Christmas concert — at 8 p.m. Saturday, December 19, at St. Ignatius Church — will feature the Arvo Part *Magnificat* and the premiere of Steve Heitzeg's *The Nine Gifts*. But I've yet to attend a Chanticleer Christmas concert — the only seasonal offering I wouldn't miss — that didn't include a rapt account of the original version of "Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen" by Michael Praetorius as an encore. It's usually the high-point of the season for me. ▼

Notes From All Over



Notes From All Over

Among his few new songs were a tribute to LA that the Angeleno Chamber of Commerce won't be snapping up anytime soon and another called "The Greek," about a satyr-like local Wainwright was not able to connect with on a recent trip to the Greek islands. Both proved to be very funny stuff from a performer whose future may well rest on the distance he's put between himself and anybody else's idea of clone.

Holiday homo fare

For good or ill, Rufus is not one of the goddamn reindeer, and there is this matter of holiday music to contend with. If you need to buy one of the new holiday CDs, the obvious choice is the Kirov Orchestra's new recording of *Nutcracker* conducted by Valery Gergiev on Philips — the best recording of *Nutcracker* since the last one on Philips, conducted by Semyon Bychkov. This is strictly adult fare, so if you're more interested in top-flight dance music by a red-blooded Russian homosexual than in homogenized sugar plum fairies, this is the one for you.

If, on the other hand, you're inclined to something more spiritual, there's a new re-release that wins my holiday-record-of-the-year award hands down: Hugo Distler's *Die Weihnachtsgeschichte* ("The Christmas Story") on Berlin Classics. I first encountered this hauntingly beautiful music of 1933 entirely by chance, in a live performance when I was in high school. It was a deeply stirring experience I longed to relive — but found myself unable to locate so much as a recording for decades. Last season, Chanticleer made it

Love Streams

◀ previous page

vised to varying degrees, centering on the disintegrating lives of two people — the driven, abusive novelist Robert Harmon (played by Cassavetes himself), and his sister Sarah (a brilliant Gena Rowlands), who's in the midst of a bitter divorce and a nervous breakdown. Harmon spends his days gathering "material" for his fiction — in reality, desperately indulging himself with hookers and booze, while misusing a string of ex-wives and a pitiful abandoned son he meets briefly for the first time. Sarah's life has become a series of hysterical interludes — collapsing at the divorce lawyer's or

at a bowling alley, and in a memorably comic-pathetic scene, bringing several taxis full of miniature horses, goats, chickens, and other fauna to her brother to give him "something to love." Not every director could make such melodramatics ring true — and there are even more over-the-top dream sequences — but the film offers such a richness of emotional detail in its pictures of Robert and Sarah and those around them that we eventually uncover the humor and humanity behind these damaged lives. ▼

Love Streams plays Fri., Dec. 18 at 8 p.m. at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Screening Room. Call 978-ARTS.

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BAY AREA REPORTER

First Lady of human rights

Women's Philharmonic's tribute to Eleanor Roosevelt

by Philip Campbell

Eleanor Roosevelt may not have been in the house, but perhaps her spirit was, at A Concert Tribute to Eleanor Roosevelt, sponsored by Working Assets in partnership with Amnesty International, the Women's Philharmonic and the New Heritage Music Foundation last week at Herbst Theatre. The event commemorated the 50th anniversary of the passage of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by

the United Nations.

If the line-up of organizations sounds impressive, the list went on with a distinguished array of individual participants, including actor Jean Stapleton, spokespersons for Amnesty International and the Women's Philharmonic, and Cal Davis undergrad Shannon Roosevelt, great-granddaughter of the beloved former First Lady.

The dignified evening never aspired to be a celebration. It was, quite literally, a remembrance of a remarkable person, whose proudest achievement was her contribution to the Declaration. The concert itself was surprisingly unmoving, and the blessedly brief speeches were full of facts, but dry. The speaker for Amnesty was the most impassioned, reminding us that the document is yet to be fully implemented, even here, in what is arguably the world's most successful democracy. Only Shannon Roosevelt, in a charmingly anecdotal address, put a more human face on the tribute.

If my heart sank at the prospect of so many interruptions for non-musical acknowledgments and statements, I was soon reassured by their concision and appropriateness. Still, the concert remained a lackluster representation of the orchestra's virtues, and the fault was in the mediocre bill of fare.

Jean Stapleton was greeted warmly, and she added presence to the portentous *Preamble for a Solemn Occasion* by Aaron Cop-



Eleanor Roosevelt

land. Her uninflected reading of the narration to his music written for the first anniversary of the historic Declaration was apt and added some honest weight to a rather pretentious statement.

Eleanor's Gift, commissioned for the event from former composer-in-residence to the Women's Philharmonic Chen Yi and Bay Area vocal ensemble Chanticleer, proved to be a genuine let-down. Chen Yi's work with those groups produced wonderful results in the past, but the short quasi-concerto for cello (well played by Paul Tobias) was underdeveloped and would have been better as a first movement to a longer score. As it stood, there were some interesting orchestral effects, good string-writing and percussion sounds, but little meaning.



Apo Hsu

Hope floats

Apo Hsu, music director of the Women's Phil and a glamorous presence with a gorgeous mezzo speaking voice, gave a short explanation of the genesis of Australian composer Anne Boyd's *Black Sun* (1990), which opened the second half of the concert. Written as an elegy for the victims of Tiananmen Square, it is a vividly pictorial work that portrays the horrors of that atrocity and ends with a glimmer

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DANCE

The Mark Morris Dance Group's *The Hard Nut* at Zellerbach Hall

Tough and tender 'Nut'

Mark Morris Dance Group in Berkeley

by Stephanie von Buchau

I've been enjoying Mark Morris' dancing and choreography since the early 1980s. He can be silly and he can be profound, sometimes in the same ballet. His popular *Nutcracker* gloss, *The Hard Nut*, is both funny and tender, though the audience at UC Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall last Saturday night seemed to think the whole thing was a scream. They were so into guffawing that they laughed through most of the "Intrada" to the big love duet. By delaying the start of the actual duet and then carrying it on into the final waltz, Morris forces his viewers to think as well as feel, difficult for people fed on the usual balletic clichés.

What finally shut the gigglers up was the duet itself, with Marie (Lauren Grant) and her Nutcracker (William Wagner) spooning like teenagers, gently showing off for each other, inviting then fleeing embraces and finally stealing repeated kisses like every newly-in-love adolescent on the planet. My companion said,

Morris is so open, so inclusive, that the couple's gender is irrelevant; they are just two very young people in love."

This is an astute observation, and possibly one of the reasons that the audience, full of kids for a change on an opening night, was so uncomfortably giggly. I don't care what kind of reputation Berkeley has for openness and "tolerance." Seeing muscular guys dressed as snowflakes, or watching the tall, handsome Drosselmeier (Rob Besserer) tenderly impart the lessons of manhood to his Nutcracker nephew in an amazing same-sex pas de deux at the beginning of the snow scene, jolts even complacently p.c. audiences. Yet this is not Les Ballets Trockadero.

Still, Morris is the kind of artist who doesn't mind what you read into that gorgeous bit of choreography; he just wants you to hear the music. Tchaikovsky's brilliant score is played uncut, in the correct order, by the Berkeley Symphony with Cal Performances' director, Robert Cole, conducting. Each year as the overture labors along, flat-footed and

out-of-tune, this seems to me like a bad idea. Once the curtain goes up, however, Cole's interpretation takes off. It has the required sweep and grandeur — the growing of the Christmas tree, the two pas de deux, the transition music, and the big waltzes all soar, while the snow scene, with its blizzard of confetti thrown at the top of the jumps, fizzles irresistibly.

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ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS...

Wailing in December

by Mister Marcus

The season is on, and along with all the parties, dinners and celebrations, the leather community finds time to support and encourage those who seek leather titles. Last weekend and the weekend before, more leather titles emerged in two separate Florida locations and, closer to home, up in Guerneville where the Russian River community celebrated the naming of their first ever Mr. Russian River Leather.

But first things first. In San Francisco, the Mr. SF Leather '99 Contest committee released the names of the judges for the competition taking place on Friday, March 12th.

Those who support and encourage the tenets of diversity and inclusion will be pleased to know that International Drummer Boy '97 Dan Hughes has been named head judge for Mr. San Francisco Leather '99. The rest of the panel includes outgoing Mr. SF Leather Stephan Edwards; The 15 Association president Peter Fiske; former Defenders MC president Mario Torrigino; former 1997 Bare Chest Calendar man Bob Goldfarb; and East Bay leather activist Sandy "Mama" Reinhardt, a woman who supports practically every leather event in the entire SF Bay area.

These judges will be on the scene in the coming weeks to witness bar and other contests that will culminate in the Class of 1999 Mr. SF Leather contestants.

Fun in the sun

Master of ceremonies extraordinaire Frank Nowicki traveled to St. Petersburg, Florida the weekend of December 4-6 to inaugurate yet another regional leather competition, the Mr. Suncoast



John Rochat of Santa Rosa and Mr. Triple R Leather swept to victory at the Mr. Russian River Leather Contest last Saturday, Dec. 12. He will be the first leatherman from the Russian River area to compete at Int'l. Mr. Leather.

Eagle leather contest, situated in the fabulous new Suncoast Resort. (Tom Kiple, former owner of the Baltimore Eagle, runs this first class operation, which features 26 retail stores, full restaurants, swimming pools, and tennis courts.)

Five contestants vied for the title: Gregg Adams, John Gilmetti, John Beck, Michael Greathouse, and Randy Griffin. Judges Bob Graves (owner of the Full Moon Saloon, in Fort Lauderdale), Joseph Bean of Chicago, and Michael Cruz, Mr. Florida Drummer, did not have an easy time of it, but when the tallies were counted, Gregg Adams of Tampa took the title, besting 1st runner-up John Gilmetti and 2nd runner-up Michael Greathouse. Photos are on the way!

Also last weekend, in Orlando, SKO Productions staged the Mr. Florida Leather and Florida Leatherboy contests at the notorious Parliament House. Our own Sam Medrano was on hand and reports the entire weekend was very well done, including the weekend long 9th anniversary party of the Full Moon Saloon.

(Hordes of hunks helped Bob Graves celebrate the Full Moon's anniversary with lots of special "things," including several porno

actors dancing on the bar and waving foot after foot of dangling meat to the delight of the packed crowd.)

There were three "boy" contestants at the Parliament House — including one woman! And wouldn't you know, the woman won! She's Cheryl Hooper of Altamonte Springs, Florida and she will compete for American Leather Boy in D.C. next April. She prefers to be called "Hoops".

Four contestants vied for the Mr. Florida Leather title: Louis Homsany, Nasty Daddy, Richard Steiff and Dale Moore. The usual categories were judged between lots of great entertainment, and the tallies told that Richard Steiff is Mr. Florida Leather 1999, with Louis Homsany the runner-up. Richard will compete at Int'l. Mr. Leather in May.

River Business

Closer to home, a nice crowd turned out up in Guerneville for the first ever Mr. Russian River Leather contest on Saturday, December 12. There was a meet and greet on Friday, at which the three contestants — Phil Bortolussi, Taylor Poff and John Rochat — were introduced. It was fun judging with Philip Turner, Int'l. Mr. Leather Lenny Broberg, IMSL '88 Shann Carr, Greg Pennington and Int'l. Mr. Leather '88 Michael Pereyra. How many venues can boast three major title holders?

Bob Brunson of the River Business bar deserves a heap of accolades for putting the whole thing together. The judges were accorded only the best in accommodations at the Triple R Resort, and devoured the gourmet dinners. Gary Virginia and Donna Sachet emceé'd the show, and I think I heard "Fred and Ginger!" shouts from the packed house as they cavorted onstage between the judging segments. Shann Carr brought the house down with her tales of visiting Florida resorts, and Vicki Sheppard was in such a state of inebriation, it was a miracle that she finished her steamy set to a big ovation. The only remark that wasn't heard was "Get the hook!"

Tim Wong performed the tally duties with his usual aplomb, and it was almost 0100 when Mr. Triple R Leather John Rochat was named the first Mr. Russian River Leather, to wild applause. He will be the first man to represent the area at Int'l. Mr. Leather in Chicago next May.

next page ►

LEATHER EVENTS

Friday, December 18

Knights of Malta beer/soda bust @ the Eagle, 2100-2400, for only \$7. Have your photo taken with Santa! Then head on over to the Loading Dock for M.A.S.T. social gathering around 10pm.

Exiles of SF host women's SM/port videos at the Women's Bldg., with doors open 1930-2100. Tariff: \$3/members; \$5/guests. Meanwhile, Mr. Edge Leather Steven Byrd invites you to come and meet Santa, from 1900-2100, at The Edge. In fact, he invites both you and Santa to pose with him (Steven likes 3-ways!).

Saturday, December 19

Santa's Slave Auction at the Turf Club in Hayward, presented by the ACLC. \$5 beer/soda

bust, entertainment, and bare-chest calendar guys, all beginning at 2000, hosted by Randy Wright and Beth Elliott.

GSGRA & Rawhide II Snowflakes & Spurs Holiday Ball at the Rawhide. Only \$7 advance, \$10/doorman. Hors d'oeuvres, dancing etc.

Have your photo taken with Santa in the Castro, courtesy of the Knights of Malta MC, between 1000-1500, to benefit AIDS Benefits Counselors.

Bears of SF beer/soda bust @ the Lone Star, 1500-1900, for only \$7. If you bring an unwrapped toy, you get five free raffle tickets.

UCSF Pediatric AIDS/HIV Treatment Center cocktail party at Club Townsend, from 2000-2130, for \$25 and an unwrapped toy.

Back in the saddle

by Sweet Lips

Fear not, dear readers, Sweet Lips is back home in the Gay Area after a great vacation in Puerto Vallarta, doing my part for international relations. You know, every year I get the same question: "Lips, you don't swim, you don't scuba-dive, you don't snorkel — from your pasty white skin, we can tell you don't even sunbathe! So why do you go down to P.V. every year?" The accompanying picture illustrates my reasons perfectly: here I am with Louis, the very personable bartender at the Adobe Café and Bar. Louis is a great guy, and the Adobe serves up fabulous fare, with Rudolph in charge. All the motivation I need.

Don't miss "The Monarchs'

"Christmas Show" on Wed., Dec. 23 at Harvey's, 500 Castro St.; live entertainment, group caroling, and the Lollipop Guild, hosted by Their Most Imperial Majesties Emperor Ted Lewis and Empress Alexis Miranda. The suggested donation is \$3.

The Giraffe's Xmas party takes place tonight (Thurs., Dec. 17) at 6 p.m., with a lavish buffet by Chef Dennis ("Sassaparilla 'n' Sox") Tyler. Then, on Sun., Dec. 20 at the Giraffe, there will be a "Munchie Brunchie" to benefit the God-Father Service Fund. The day's special will be Holiday Bloody Marys.

The Polk Rendezvous' staff and manager David Kapp wish all of you a Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year. The Rendezvous opens at 3 p.m. on Xmas Day for festive tippling. Speaking of which, here's a dynamite recipe for an "Egg nog

R, River Business, and the Rainbow Cattle Co. outdid themselves in the way of service and hospitality. Leather is alive and well at the Russian River and I am both proud and glad to have been asked to participate!

Holiday reading

If you're having a problem finding the appropriate gift for that leather man you know, I suggest you check out two new coffee table photo books (or left handed



Lips with Louis in P.V.

"Screamer," from Chronicle Books' *Atomic Cocktails*: In a saucepan, heat 2 quarts of eggnog over low heat until steaming (do not boil); remove from heat and stir in 10 oz. Tia Maria; serve in punch cups, dusted with nutmeg. Now that's what Lips calls holiday cheer. ▼

reading) by Richard Hunter of Mister S. He has produced two tomes full of stunning black and white photography, selling for \$12.95 each. You can buy both for \$25, and if you do, a portion of the proceeds will go to the AIDS Emergency Fund. Give them a look at your favorite bookstore. They're very stunning indeed.

Hey, play hard and safely and exercise caution during this holiday season. Remember, only eight days until Christmas! ▼

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OUT&ABOUT

Fri 18

Castro Theater

Marc Huestis presents "A Carrie White Christmas," with actress Piper Laurie (*The Hustler; Carrie; Children of a Lesser God*) appearing in person, interviewed by critic Michael Sragow. Emceed by Varla Jean Merman, with performances by Esmeralda and Matthew Martin. Includes a cockeyed medley of kooky Christmas carols, the coronation of the Christmas Carrie, and screening of Brian DePalma's 1976 shocker film *Carrie*. Partial proceeds benefit the AIDS Emergency Fund.

\$20 gala; 7pm. (\$7 screening only, at 10:45pm.) 489 Castro St. Tix: A Different Light Bookstore, or phone 863-0611.

Lumiere Theater

Film: "Leather Jacket Love Story," an erotic gay comedy starring Sean Tataryn as a wide-eyed teenager who falls in love with a hunky, leather-clad older man (Christopher Bradley). Directed by David DeCoteau. 1572 California St. (at Polk). Call for showtimes: 352-0810.

New Conservatory Theatre

"Beautiful Thing," a story of young love triumphant against all odds, set

in south-east London in 1993. Written by Jonathan Harvey, directed by Ed Decker. With Jamie Marks and Nathan Wheeler as two teenage boys who risk everything for happiness. \$20. 8pm. Thru 1/2/1999. 25 Van Ness Ave. (near Market). 861-8972.

New Conservatory Theatre

Meg MacKay stars in "Call Me Madam," Irving Berlin's 1950 musical satire of Washington politics. Presented by 42nd Street Moon. \$20. 8pm. Thru 12/20.

Josie's

Varia Jean Merman with the Lounge-o-leers in "Holiday Ham." \$15. 10pm. Thur.-Sun. thru 12/20 (including 8pm shows). Josie's Juice Joint and Cabaret, 3583 16th St. (at Market). 861-7933.

Studio @ Rhino

"The P.A. Cooley Holiday Special" spreads queer holiday glee in an evening of sketch comedy and backstage hi-jinx. Directed & co-written by Sean Owens. With P.A. Cooley, Paul Tena, Shari McKoy, Libby Cox, Josh Truett, Tara Blau, Drew Todd, and Doug Ireland, plus special guests. \$12. 8:30pm. Thru 12/19. The Studio at Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St. Reservations: 861-5079.

Lorraine Hansberry Theatre

"Christmas with the Crawfords," presented by Artful Circle Theatre. A musical romp with Joan Crawford and her children. Starring Michael Cameron Benbrook as Joan Crawford. \$20. 8pm & 10pm. Thru 1/9/99. 620 Sutter St. Reservations: 821-5455.

Dancers' Group Studio Theatre

Eclipse marks the Winter Solstice with "Passion," an original dance-theater performance. The title refers to the ascension of the spirit, birth, rebirth and the cycles of life and death marked by the solstice. Investigates birth, death, and winter solstice traditions worldwide. A self-guided healing ritual follows the show. \$10-\$20. 8pm. Also on 12/19 & 20, 3221 22nd St. (at Mission). Info/reservations: 824-5044.

Herbst Theatre

The Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, conducted by Nicholas McGegan, plays Mozart, including the joyful *Exultate Jubilate*, the *Mass in C Minor*, and *Symphony No. 34 in C*. Featuring sopranos Dominique Labelle and Twyla Whittaker, tenor Jonathan Boyd, baritone Todd Donovan, and the Philharmonia Chorale. \$29-\$40. 8pm. Van Ness Ave. at McAllister. Tix: 392-4400.

Theater Artaud

The San Francisco Circus, one of the

nation's premier schools of circus arts, presents "Zoppo," an extravaganza of acrobatics, hoop diving, pole climbing, juggling, and trapeze. Directed by Lu Yi. \$15.50-\$17.50. 7:30pm. Thru 12/20. 450 Florida St. Tix/info: 621-7797.

ATA Gallery

Artists Television Access, Other Cinema & friends present a holiday "NOISEFEST" bash & benefit (to pay the rent). XMAS-film loops and projections by Craig Baldwin; electronic music by Oakland's Donkey Boy; Hanukkah puppet show by Gravity Goldberg; entertainment by Popcorn Theater; cocktails served by sexy elves; door prizes; raffle; DJ dancing and more. \$5-\$50 donation. 8pm-2am. 992 Valencia St. 824-3890.

The Marsh

"Bill and Chuck and Scrooge," a play directed by, and starring Danny Scheie. A very non-traditional Christmas tale lambasting family values, classic fiction, and Christmas itself. \$10-\$12 sliding (\$15 Fri. & Sat.). 8:30pm. Thru 12/20. 1062 Valencia St. (at 22nd). 826-5750.

Community Room

Men of All Colors Together (MACT) hosts its annual holiday party. Free. 7-10pm. One St. Francis Place. 675-0201.

Sat 19

Slim's

Imperial Teen perform their queerly beautiful brand of bubblegrunge rock, a lively blend of seductive whispers and harmonies swallowed by screams. \$7 advance; \$8 door. 9pm. 333 Eleventh St.

177 Townsend St. @ 3rd

Club Universe presents "Townsend Toy Factory," the 7th annual benefit for the UCSF Pediatric AIDS/HIV Treatment Center. Bring new, unwrapped toys (greatly appreciated by the kids, plus you get a free drink at Universe). Celebrity bartenders, live entertainment, open bar, food. \$25 (includes entry to Universe after the party); all proceeds donated to treatment center. 8-9:30pm. Info: 289-6650.

550 Barneveld St.

"Metropolis," a Gus Presents winter-wonderland dance party for gay men, featuring DJs Matt Consola and Phil B. \$15. 10pm-6am. Located between Oakdale and Industrial, off Bayshore. Follow the searchlights. 646-0890.

Club Jaded

"A Very Jaded Fairy Tale Fashion Show," presented by the Lavender



Arian Photography

Heklina and her fellow drag pioneers choose between white and dark meat in "A Donner Party Christmas Special" at Trannyshack. See Tuesday.

Dragon Society, a support group for gay Chinese men, organized by the Asian & Pacific Islander Wellness Center. Featuring six designers, led by Yoji Ino. \$8. 8:45pm. 314 11th St. (at Folsom). Fairy Tale Info/tix: 292-3420, ext 308.

Luna Sea

A Solstice gathering in celebration of the light within all people. Drum, dance, song and spoken word by MoonSisters Librations, Gigi Oltavaro-Hormillosa, Virginia Benavidez, Saun-Toy Latifah Trotter, Imani Sistahday, and many more beautiful women. Your MCs for the evening are Redwolf and Meru. In honor of Two-Spirited First Nation people, this event is a benefit for The Growing Tree, a nonprofit organization that supports the Women's SUNDANCE. \$10-\$20 sliding (children free). 8pm. 2940 16th St., Suite 216-C. 863-2989.

ODC Theater

The American Composers Forum presents "Salon for Composer/Choreographer Residencies," with the premiere of original, new works by some of the Bay Area's leading choreographers and composers in a one-night-only performance. \$7.50. 7:30pm reception; 8:30pm performance. 3153 17th St. (at Shotwell). 863-9834.

ATA Gallery

Other Cinema consummates its Fall '98 season with its semi-annual "New Experimental Works" night. Featured are James Hong in person with the world premiere of *Behold the Asian*, Mark Street's *Sweep*, and Ken Paul Rosenthal's *Flow*, plus other selections. \$5. 8pm. Artists Television Access Gallery, 992 Valencia St. 824-3890.

Kimo's Showroom

"Fauxgirls," the all-different female impersonation revue, hosted by former Miss Gay Tennessee, Alexandra. Two shows (each different) starting at 10:30pm. \$8 (good for both shows). Open mic drag show follows (Bring tape or CD). 1351 Polk St. (at Pine). 885-4535.

Sun 20

Yerba Buena Center

José Luis Moscovich conducts the San Francisco Camerata in "Latin American Notes," which includes the U.S. premiere of the new tango sensation, *Graciela y Buenos Aires*, by José Bragato, as well as orchestral works by composers from Cuba, Mexico, Uruguay, and Venezuela. Reception and CD signing (for the Camerata's new album) follows the show. \$20. 5pm. The Forum at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 701 Mission St. Info/tix: 978-ARTS

Piaf's

Connie Champagne is Judy Garland in "A Judy Garland Christmas." Hear a full repertoire of holiday songs and Garland chestnuts, such as "Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas" and "Zing! Went the Strings of My Heart." Champagne's faithful interpretation of legendary Garland tunes will not disappoint Garland fans. \$15 (\$25 for brunch & show package). 3pm. Piaf's Restaurant & Cabaret, 1686 Market St. 864-3700.

St. Ignatius Church

The San Francisco Boys Chorus Hol-

Calendare

by Mark Mardon



Kunststoff dancers Leslie Schickel and Eric Hoisington

Art stuff

It's always thrilling to see ambitious new performance projects launched, and nerve-wracking to watch and wonder whether they'll actually take flight.

So it is with palpable excitement and a wee bit of trepidation we (the queer arts community) anticipate the debut of "Kunststoff," an experimental and eclectic-art company that aims high, despite its clunky Finnish name (which translates to "Art Stuff"). Its creators hope to tap into the "tremendous artistic potential in the Bay Area that is unreleased due to the polarization of local artists," and to "bring to the people the most interesting and talented performance and visual artists, dancers, musicians, composers, writers, film makers, and personalities under one consensual umbrella to create THE MAGIC."

Wheew! If only every producer could match ambitions with deeds. Yet we hold out high hope for this endeavor, in large part because of the impressive histories of its founders, **Tomi Paasonen**, and **Yannis Adoniou**.

Paasonen, a native of Finland, claims to have been "raised by wild reindeers in the vast tundras" of his homeland. Sure. But he has had a fabulous ballet career, dancing all the classics with various companies, beginning with "Das Hamburger Ballet" in Hamburg, Germany, where he achieved "soloist status and tight buns" (his words, not ours). A freak accident ended his dancing, but left him free to co-create Kunststoff, which he promises will deliver "mind-expanding experiences." We can only hope.

Greek native Adoniou, who has performed with Lines and other San Francisco dance companies, has created numerous dance theater works locally, including a program recently seen at the Lesbian and Gay Dance Festival. His aim with Kunststoff is to create events where dance, film and visual art influence each other.

To inaugurate their baby, the duo and many local dancers and performers will present an extravagant array of delights, from dances to dramas to films to an art exhibit to live music to DJ dancing.

We'll be holding our breath. ▶

The debut of *Kunststoff*, a dance-theater performance, takes place Friday, December 18, at Brady Street Theater, 60 Brady St. (btwn. Market & Otis), and runs through December 20. An early show (8pm; \$16) includes dance-theater performance, experimental film festival, art exhibition, and DJ dance party. A late show (10:30pm; \$6) includes film fest, art exhibit, and DJ dance party. Tix: 558-9355. Info: 835-2124.



A scene from *Carrie*, to screen at the Castro Theater as part of *A Carrie White Christmas*. See Friday.



Nellie Cravens and Chris Tarjan in the comedy whodunit, *Shear Madness*. At Mason St. Theatre. See Monday.

day Concert, directed by Ian Robertson, presents Mozart's *Spatzenmesse*, plus selected holiday music. Includes members of the San Francisco Opera Chorus and Orchestra. \$10 & \$12. 7pm. 650 Parker Ave. (at Fulton). 665-2330.

Mon 21

Mason St. Theatre

"Shear Madness," a comedy whodunit in which the audience gets to solve the crime. The production received the Charlie Chaplin Comedy Award from the National Comedy Hall of Fame. Set in a unisex hairstyling salon that becomes the scene of a zany murder. \$30-\$36. 8pm. Thru 12/27. 340 Mason St. 982-5463.

Josie's

Danny Williams emcees "Gay Comedy Open Mic," two hours of raw, up-and-coming comic talent. \$10. 8pm. Josie's Juice Joint and Cabaret, 3583 16th St. (at Market). To sign up, or for reservations, call 861-7933.

8pm, 16th Street at Market, San Francisco, CA 94103

Tue 22

The Stud

Trannyshack presents "A Donner Party Christmas Special," co-hosted by Heklina and Kennedy. Featuring wintry cannibal themes performed by a stellar array of drag divas, including Varla Jean Merman and Arturo Gaster. Based on the holiday experiences of the infamous Donner party, those hapless pioneers who devoured each other to survive their Sierra Nevada crossing. Apart from the gruesome theme, the show promises to be much like Osmond Family television holiday

specials from the 1970s. \$4 cover. Doors open 10pm; show at midnight. 21+ w/ID. The Stud Bar, corner of Ninth St. & Harrison.

Grace Cathedral

American Bach Soloists Choir & Period Instrument Orchestra presents Handel's *Messiah*, with Emily Van Evera, soprano; Judith Malafrente, alto; Nils Brown, tenor; and David Arnold, bass. \$18-\$35 (\$50 including pre-concert reception to celebrate ABS's 10th Anniversary; phone 435-5235 for reservations). 7:30pm. 1100 California St. Tix: City Box Office, 392-4400.

The Marsh

"A Karen Carpenter Christmas," starring Katie Guthorn as Karen Carpenter and Morey Goldstein as her brother, Richard. Directed by Tom Ross. Featuring classics from the Carpenter canon, plus Christmas songs and Broadway show tunes. \$15-\$17. 8:30pm. Thru 12/30. 1062 Valencia St. 826-5750.

Minna St. Gallery

Ongoing exhibit: "Sentinels," featuring paintings by artist Doze Green, whose work grew out of the early graffiti art movement in New York with Fun Gallery, including Keith Haring, Basquiat, Futura 2000, and Fab Five Freddy. His imagery is inspired by ancient symbolism, Egyptology, Masonry, and alchemy. Green now lives and works in San Francisco. Free. 1-7pm Tue.-Fri., Sat. 4-7pm. 974-1719.

Wed 23

Yerba Buena Center

Frameline, in conjunction with the

film/video program at Yerba Buena Center, presents two videos, *Pierre & Gilles, Love Stories*, directed by Mike Aho, and *What Can I Do With a Male Nude?* directed by Ron Peck. Since 1976, photographer Pierre and painter Gilles have created naive yet sophisticated imagery resulting in a fictitious symbiosis of childhood dreams and adult fantasies. Hear what makes the duo tick. Peck's video is a short comedy on a troublesome 20th-century taboo. \$7 (\$6 students/seniors). 8pm. Screening Room, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 701 Mission St. (at Third). 978-2700.

The Plush Room

Extended engagement: Wesla Whifield performs "This Can't Be Love," with the lyrics of Lorenz Hart and the music of Richard Rogers. With Mike Greensill on piano, Ken Miller on Bass. \$20 (Wed., Thu., Sun.; \$25 Fri. & Sat.). Thru 1/26/99. York Hotel, 940 Sutter St. 885-2800.

Thu 24

Castro Theater

The San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, under the baton of guest conductor Joseph Jennings, performs "Home for the Holidays." Includes opening music by composer-in-residence Robert Seely, and featuring an antiphonal chorus singing "Ave Maria." A Chanukkah piece, "Thy Saving Power," follows, along with holiday favorites and a tribute to Kwanzaa. \$10. Three shows: 5, 7, & 9pm. Tix: Gay Men's Chorus headquarters, 400 Castro St. (at Market); A Different Light Bookstore; on the Web at www.sfgmc.org; or by phone at 1-888-447-3462.

New Asia Restaurant

Comedian Lisa Geduldig presents the 6th annual "Evening of Kung Pao Kosher Comedy," Jewish comedy on Christmas eve at a Chinese restaurant. Featuring Freddie Roman, Sara Cytron, Dan Lewis and Geduldig. Dinner show (6-8:30pm; \$46) includes 7-course Chinese banquet, followed by comedy acts. Cocktail show (9:30-11pm; \$32) includes egg rolls, soft drink, and comedy. Partial proceeds benefit Women Organized to Respond to Life-Threatening Diseases, and Bay Area Council for Jewish Rescue and Renewal. 772 Pacific Ave. (btwn. Grant & Stockton). Tix (advance only): 522-3737.



Katie Guthorn and Morey Goldstein play brother and sister in *A Karen Carpenter Christmas*, at The Marsh. See Tuesday.

WANNA SUBMIT?

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Brain teasers

◀ Arts cover

teurish, appropriately resembling the work of a high school student. When the drawings enter a photographic plane, however, the effect brings to mind those photographic storybooks that have lifeless dolls enacting Grimm's fairy tales. Adler's pictures present a world that is a sealed-off vacuum holding both evidence of the past and the reworking of memory. It's difficult to know what to trust.

The process is most successful in Adler's 1997 series *Once in Love With Amy*, which shows images of a 19-year-old Adler posing, frequently nude, in a kind of perfect late-'70s interior decorated with potted palms, imported wool blankets, and an angular wood table upon which the naked, voluptuous Amy sprawls. The catalog reveals that these pictures were taken by an older woman, and knowledge of that narrative gives these images a spicy charge. But the reworked expression on Amy's face offers little indication of her feelings toward her admirer. While there is something fascinating about these works, the artist remains a little too coy and noncommittal. While Adler has garnered wide praise, the show seems less like the arrival of a major artist than a look at the formative works of a promising one.

Queasy sex

Charles Ray, a mid-career artist who has had a major influence on LA art students through his teaching duties at UCLA, is equally focused on thoughts of youth, identity and queasy sex. This interest is set even before entering the building for his retrospective, by his life-size version of a toy fire truck parked on the downtown street outside. This inflated object in many ways infantilizes notions of adulthood, as it questions what people grow up to become.

Ray enjoys playing with scale by offering his viewers slick reworkings and re-sizings of objects and himself. His most common



Raising Your Gifted Child, by Amy Adler, 1997, cibachrome print

media is mannequins, dummies sporting lifelike genitalia and other surprising features. His masterwork, titled *Fall '91*, is a power-suited female mannequin that's one-third larger than life-size. This seemingly small measure of inflation manages to dwarf the viewer, especially males, with emasculating power that reduces anyone who comes near to child-size.

Less successful yet still fascinating are a nude family that are all configured to be the height of a five-year-old, or the unsettling *Oh Charley, Charley, Charley*, a sculpture that features naked, plastic doubles of the artist in an attempted all-male orgy with himself. While the latter may sound spicy to some, the tone of the piece is more pathetic than erotic. Like Adler's work, many of these works are more appealing conceptually (or in reproduction) than in actuality. And while filled with important sculptures, this

exhibition, in the end, seems curiously, underwhelmingly plastic.

Finally, Kay Rosen, the subject of a major survey exhibition here, is an artist whose medium is language and words. Her practice of turning palindromes and other linguistic phenomenon into paintings give this career survey an acquired taste kind of quality. Her many-layered, sometimes cryptic word games are perhaps a bit too complex to explain in an article of this length, but if you allow yourself to engage them — the audio tour with the artist's own explanations, in a slight southern drawl, is recommended for accessibility's sake — they can be as entertaining as a Big Book of Fun on a family road trip. ▼

Amy Adler, through Feb. 14; Charles Ray, through Feb. 21; Kay Rosen: *lifelikje*, through Feb. 14 at MOCA, Los Angeles. Call (213) 621-2766.

Casting a wide net

by Jameson Currier

Contra/Diction: New Queer Male Fiction, edited by Brett Josef Grubisic; Arsenal Pulp Press, \$15.95

Men on Men 7: Best New Gay Fiction, edited by David Bergman; Plume, \$13.95

With the proliferation of anthologies now targeted toward gay male readers, it should come as no surprise that editors are striving to assemble works which reflect a more diverse experience and outlook on gay life. In two new anthologies, *Men on Men 7*, edited by David Bergman, and *Contra/Diction*, edited by Brett Josef Grubisic, both editors remark in their introductions on the wide net they cast in order to find a diverse set of short stories to include in their fiction collections. Bergman, who edits his third installment of this gay male literary tradition, reads stories over a period of two years to find writing that "opens up new areas of pleasure and experience," while Grubisic's submission request looked for stories "outside the norm."

Indeed, if anything, the one similarity these two anthologies share is that they both have successfully captured their mission of presenting a diversity of gay experiences and voices. But in both collections, along with that shared diversity has also come a variance of talent and technique; both anthologies contain writing that is extraordinary and uneven.

consciousness of a priest.

Many writers in this collection grapple with new ways to present fiction. Andy Quan's "Immigration" flashes between family history and narration. Aldo Alvarez in "Death by Bricolage" uses deposition and pathology to construct his tale. Stories by writers AE Christopher and Bill Bissett are more ambitious than successful, however: Christopher's narration in "one of your own" is too disjointed, and Bissett's technique of free-floating abbreviated word patterns in "jean marc did i evr tell yu" grows annoying after the second paragraph. Among the collection's finest discoveries, however, is Charles Derry's "Keeping Track," in which answers to five questions reveal an absorbing history of a neighborhood's street.

Like *Queries*, *Contra/Diction* is heavily comprised of West Coast and Canadian writers. Among the San Francisco-identified authors in this collection are Stephen Beachy, Tom Musbach, Jim Provenzano, Michael Ritter, and Richard Schimpf. Beachy's "Torque" is a druggy slice of life on a Venice Beach strip. Schimpf's "Breathe the Air" set in Modesto, is a dark-edged domestic retaliation tale. Ritter's "Parker's Tractor," a coming out story, and Provenzano's "Papers," about a narrator discovering his family's roots and secrets, are both memorable because of their strong sense of characterization.



More flash

The 20 stories collected in *Men on Men 7* could also be overwhelmingly applauded for their strong sense of characterization. Bergman, however, seems to be drawn to fiction which uses more conventional story technique. The one story which employs an unusual formula of interspersing a museum guide into its plot, Reginald Harris' fine "A Tour of the Collection," turns out to be more flash than substance, the guide serving more as section breaks than as illuminating narrative on its own.

Bergman's narrow choice of conventional narrative style is also what gives this anthology its power and its flaws. While a few of these stories are overarching in their prose style or implausible in their subject matter, many of them are beautiful gems. Michael Bendzela's "Marriage," about a man leaving his wife for another man, is hauntingly realistic. "Grace Under Lashes" by San Francisco writer Aaron Jason is a welcome, comic tale of a young, inexperienced drag queen out on the town with another older one.

page 53 ►

artfull circle theatre presents

Christmas with the Crawfords

starring Michael Cameron Benbrook
as Joan Crawford

costarring
Matthew Martin
Connie Champagne
Trauma Flintstone
Jason Scott Buro
Flynn De Marco
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■ CRIXIVAN in triple therapy continues to hold serum viral load down below the limit of detection at the one year mark.

- In a separate, ongoing landmark study, over 90% of the 31 patients receiving CRIXIVAN, AZT, and 3TC reduced their HIV serum viral load below the limit of detection after 24 weeks (as measured by available tests; the virus may still be present in other organ systems).
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- CRIXIVAN can be taken with a light meal or on an empty stomach. There are side effects associated with protease inhibitors in general and CRIXIVAN in particular. Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN may develop kidney stones. For some, this can lead to more severe kidney problems including kidney failure. Drinking at least 6 glasses of water each day may help reduce the chance of forming a kidney stone. Other side effects reported include rapid breakdown of red blood cells and liver problems. There are some common medications and AIDS-related medications you should not take with CRIXIVAN. Discuss all medications you are taking or plan to take with your doctor.
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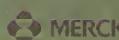
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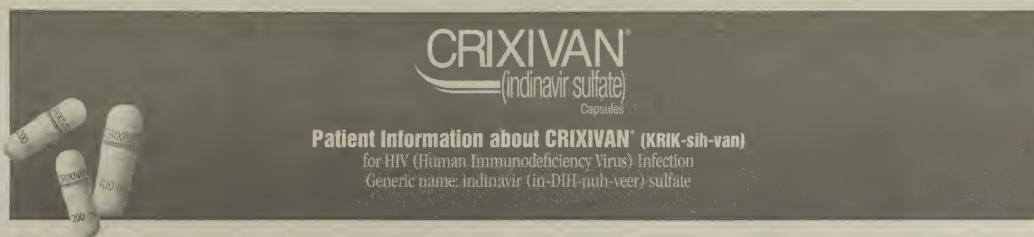
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Please read this information before you start taking CRIXIVAN. Also, you should read the information included with CRIXIVAN each time you receive your prescription, just in case anything has changed. Remember, this information does not take the place of careful discussions with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss CRIXIVAN when you start taking your medication and at regular checkups. You should remain under a doctor's care when using CRIXIVAN and should not change or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.

What is CRIXIVAN?

CRIXIVAN is an oral capsule used for the treatment of HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus). HIV is the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). CRIXIVAN is a type of HIV drug called a protease (PRO-tee-ase) inhibitor.

How does CRIXIVAN work?

CRIXIVAN is a protease inhibitor that fights HIV. CRIXIVAN can help reduce your chances of getting illnesses associated with HIV. CRIXIVAN can also help lower the amount of HIV in your body (called "viral load") and raise your CD4 (T) cell count. CRIXIVAN may not have these effects in all patients.

CRIXIVAN is usually prescribed with other anti-HIV drugs such as ZDV (also called AZT), 3TC, ddI, ddC, or d4T. CRIXIVAN works differently from these other anti-HIV drugs. Talk with your doctor about how you should take CRIXIVAN.

CRIXIVAN has been studied in adults. The safety and effectiveness of CRIXIVAN in children and adolescents have not been established.

How should I take CRIXIVAN?

There are six important things you must do to help you benefit from CRIXIVAN:

1. Take CRIXIVAN capsules every day as prescribed by your doctor. Continue taking CRIXIVAN unless your doctor tells you to stop. Take the exact amount of CRIXIVAN that your doctor tells you to take, right from the very start. To help make sure you will benefit from CRIXIVAN, you must not skip doses or take "drug holidays." If you don't take CRIXIVAN as prescribed, the activity of CRIXIVAN may be reduced (due to resistance).
2. Take CRIXIVAN capsules every 8 hours around the clock, **every day**. It may be easier to remember to take CRIXIVAN if you take it at the same time every day. If you have questions about when to take CRIXIVAN, your doctor or health care provider can help you decide what schedule works for you.
3. If you miss a dose by more than 2 hours, **wait and then take the next dose at the regularly scheduled time**. However, if you miss a dose by less than 2 hours, take your missed dose immediately. Then take your next dose at the regularly scheduled time. Do not take more or less than your prescribed dose of CRIXIVAN at any one time.
4. Take CRIXIVAN with water. You can also take CRIXIVAN with other beverages such as skim or non-fat milk, juice, coffee, or tea.
5. Ideally, take each dose of CRIXIVAN without food but with water at least one hour before or two hours after a meal. Or you can take CRIXIVAN with a light meal. Examples of light meals include:
 - dry toast with jelly, juice, and coffee (with skim or non-fat milk and sugar if you want)
 - corn flakes with skim or non-fat milk and sugar
6. It is critical that you drink at least six 8-ounce glasses of liquid (**preferably water**) throughout the day, **every day**. CRIXIVAN can cause kidney stones. Having enough fluids in your body should help reduce the chances of forming a kidney stone. Call your doctor or other health care provider if you develop kidney pains (middle to lower stomach or back pain) or blood in the urine.

Does CRIXIVAN cure HIV or AIDS?

CRIXIVAN is not a cure for HIV or AIDS. People taking CRIXIVAN may still develop infections or other conditions associated with HIV. Because of this, it is very important for you to remain under the care of a doctor. Although CRIXIVAN is not a cure for HIV or AIDS, CRIXIVAN can help reduce your chances of getting illnesses, including death, associated with HIV. CRIXIVAN may not have these effects in all patients.

Does CRIXIVAN reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

CRIXIVAN has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

Who should not take CRIXIVAN?

Do not take CRIXIVAN if you have had a serious allergic reaction to CRIXIVAN or any of its components.

What other medical problems or conditions should I discuss with my doctor?

Talk to your doctor if:

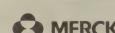
- You are pregnant or if you become pregnant while you are taking CRIXIVAN. We do not yet know how CRIXIVAN affects pregnant women or their developing babies.
- You are breast-feeding. You should stop breast-feeding if you are taking CRIXIVAN. Also talk to your doctor if you have:
- Problems with your liver, especially if you have mild or moderate liver disease caused by cirrhosis.
- Problems with your kidneys.
- Diabetes
- Hemophilia

Tell your doctor about any medicines you are taking or plan to take, including non-prescription medicines.

This medication is prescribed for a particular condition. Do not use it for any other condition or give it to anybody else. Keep CRIXIVAN and all medicines out of the reach of children. If you suspect that more than the prescribed dose of this medicine has been taken, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.

This provides a summary of information about CRIXIVAN. If you have any questions or concerns about either CRIXIVAN or HIV, talk to your doctor.

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Can CRIXIVAN be taken with other medications?**

Drugs you should not take with CRIXIVAN:

SELDANE® (terfenadine)	HISMANAL® (astemizole)
VERSED® (midazolam)	HALCION® (triazolam)
PROPSOLID® (cisapride)	Ergot medications (e.g., Wigraine® and Cafergot®)
Taking CRIXIVAN with the above medications could result in serious or life-threatening problems (such as irregular heartbeat or excessive sleepiness).	
In addition, you should not take CRIXIVAN with rifampin, known as RIFADIN®, RIFAMATE®, RIFATER®, or RIMACTANE®.	

Drugs you can take with CRIXIVAN include:

RETROVIR® (zidovudine, ZDV also called AZT)	BIAXIN® (clarithromycin)
TAGAMET® (cimetidine)	isoniazid (INH)
DIFLUCAN® (fluconazole)	ORTHO-NOVUM 1/35® (oral contraceptive)
EPIVIR™ (lamivudine, 3TC)	ZERIT® (stavudine, d4T)
BACTRIM®/SEPTA® (trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole)	VIDEX® (didanosine, ddI) — If you take CRIXIVAN with VIDEX®, take them at least one hour apart.

MYCOBUTIN® (rifabutin) — If you take CRIXIVAN with MYCOBUTIN®, your doctor may adjust both

the dose of MYCOBUTIN and the dose of CRIXIVAN.

NIZORAL® (ketoconazole) — If you take CRIXIVAN with NIZORAL®, your doctor may adjust the dose of CRIXIVAN.

Talk to your doctor about any medications you are taking.

What are the possible side effects of CRIXIVAN?

Like all prescription drugs, CRIXIVAN can cause side effects. The following is not a complete list of side effects reported with CRIXIVAN when taken either alone or with other anti-HIV drugs. Do not rely on this page alone for information about side effects. Your doctor can discuss with you a more complete list of side effects.

Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN developed kidney stones. In some of these patients this led to more severe kidney problems, including kidney failure or inflammation of the kidneys. Drinking at least six 8-ounce glasses of liquid (preferably water) each day should help reduce the chances of forming a kidney stone. Call your doctor or other health care provider if you develop kidney pains (middle to lower stomach or back pain) or blood in the urine.

Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN have had rapid breakdown of red blood cells (hemolytic anemia) which in some cases was severe or resulted in death.

Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN have had liver problems including liver failure and death. Some patients had other illnesses or were taking other drugs. It is uncertain if CRIXIVAN caused these liver problems.

Diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia) have occurred in patients taking protease inhibitors. In some of these patients, this led to ketoacidosis, a serious condition caused by poorly controlled blood sugar. Some patients had diabetes before starting protease inhibitors, others did not. Some patients required adjustments to their diabetes medication. Others needed new diabetes medication.

In some patients with hemophilia, increased bleeding has been reported.

Clinical Studies

Increases in bilirubin (one laboratory test of liver function) have been reported in approximately 10% of patients. Usually, this finding has not been associated with liver problems. However, on rare occasions, a person may develop yellowing of the skin and/or eyes.

Side effects occurring in 2% or more of patients included: abdominal pain, fatigue or weakness, flank pain, feeling unwell, nausea, diarrhea, vomiting, acid regurgitation, loss of appetite, dry mouth, back pain, headache, trouble sleeping, dizziness, taste changes, rash, upper respiratory infection, dry skin, and sore throat.

Swollen kidneys due to blocked urine flow occurred rarely.

Marketing Experience

Other side effects reported since CRIXIVAN has been marketed include: abdominal swelling; inflammation of the kidneys; increased fat appearing in areas such as the neck, abdomen, and back; change in skin color; severe skin reactions; hair loss; crystals in the urine; and allergic reactions.

Tell your doctor promptly about these or any other unusual symptoms. If the condition persists or worsens, seek medical attention.

How should I store CRIXIVAN capsules?

- Keep CRIXIVAN capsules in the bottle they came in and at room temperature (59°F-86°F).

- Keep CRIXIVAN capsules dry by leaving the small desiccant "pillow" in the bottle. Keep the bottle closed.



CRIXIVAN
(indinavir sulfate)
Capsules

ARTS

Eleanor tribute

◀ page 44

of hope. It is obvious music and hardly demanding, but effective nonetheless, and Hsu drew impressive passion from her players.

The concluding piece was the *Exile Symphony* (1936) by Pacific Northwest composer Alan Hovhaness. His Armenian roots give him a direct link to another 20th-century atrocity, the cruelties perpetrated against his people in Turkey. That may have explained his inclusion on the program, but his first symphony (he has written more than twenty since!) is more nostalgia than pained reminder, and his trademark simplicity is really just three movements built around pretty tunes.

There is no harm in writing plain and pleasant music, but the nature of the tribute would have been better served by a deeper writer. Some of Shostakovich's anguish and bombast would surely have been more involving. Still, the orchestra played well, and the audience appeared pleased.

The Herbst Theatre is a historic location long associated with the United Nations — there is even a painting in the lobby that includes a likeness of Eleanor

Roosevelt. The auditorium is a lovely space with beautiful murals, and the seating is intimate and comfortable. Unfortunately, the acoustics are dreadful, and during the recent concert, it was sometimes hard to tell if odd or- choral balances were the fault of conductor Hsu or the hall itself.

Still, the event was relatively satisfying overall. Working Assets is a credit card company with politically correct aspirations, dominating a portion of their customer's monthly payments to organizations such as Amnesty International. The concert was their first sponsorship of an arts presentation. New Heritage Music Foundation was founded by the late Harry Offenhardt, himself a close friend to Eleanor Roosevelt. The Foundation was started in 1995 with the intention of commissioning new music that celebrates persons, events or ideas important to American history. Amnesty International and the treasurable Women's Philharmonic require no introduction.

If *A Concert Tribute to Eleanor Roosevelt* was an unexciting evening, it remained a heartening demonstration of good intentions and wizardly organization by some of the finest institutions we know. ▼

Mark Morris

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Disco party

There is so much stuff going on in that hilarious, disco-style Christmas party that even after multiple viewings, I can't keep up with it. Morris still exits from the little boy's room with toilet paper on his shoe, and Besserer lifts his patch to show *naughty* Fritz (adorable June Omura) his empty eye socket. Kraig Patterson's housekeeper-on-pointe gets funnier without getting coarser, no mean feat. Both Berry Alerman (Dr. Stahlbaum/King) and Peter Wing Healy (Mrs. Stahlbaum/Queen) have gone beyond comic perfection into Vaudeville Schtik Heaven. Healy's "Rose" in the "Waltz of the Vegetables ... er ... Flowers" caps his manic performance.

New this year is Grant's Marie. Recently graduated from New York U's Tisch School of the Arts, she joined the Mark Morris Dance Group in 1998, replacing Marianne Moore (who danced Fritz in the Brussels world pre-

miere in 1991). And it's not actually a replacement, it's a totally different interpretation. At first I found Grant's pale blond, opaque looks somewhat daunting. She's tiny and compact with an Egyptian profile and almost suspicious eyes. But just as I was wondering what Morris saw in her, the second act arrived and there it was. This dancer has the most expressive body, at once frisky and voluptuous, with deft footwork and a yearning torso — perfect for a child in the throes of first love.

Grant's a valuable addition to the team — and make no mistake, this company is not called a "Group" for nothing — but I suspect Morris's fertile imagination already has something startling in store for Miss Grant's future. See this *Hard Nut* while you can; the rumor is that it will be retired after this season. ▼

Final performances of *The Hard Nut* are Dec. 17-20 at UC Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall. Call (510) 642-9988 for ticket information.

Gay fiction

◀ page 50

Another Bay Area writer, Shawn Behlen, etches a nice story about a "trophy boy" choosing between love and convenience in "Mullinville." Kevin Killian's superb "Biography" is a clash of opposites when a young gay man meets his father's straight biographer. And among the other standouts is Hollywood-inspired "Sex with Teenagers" by Brian Sloan, the director of the farcical movie *I Think I Do*, as well as Caleb Crain's potently unabashed "Cocksucker."

Bergman notes that this edition of *Men on Men* 7 incorporates stories which depict the working-class experience of gay men as well more sexually explicit material. It also reflects the trajectory of gay male fiction anthologies now to shy away from the middle-class scenarios of the '70s and AIDS dramas of the '80s. But even with these new trends noted, the finest achievements of both anthologies ironically belong

to writers who honed their craft in these decades and on those topics. In *Contra/Diction*, Robert Patrick's "The War Over Jane Fonda," about an older man escaping the imprint of AIDS on his life by spending time with his sister and her veteran-husband, is a perfect example of how short fiction should successfully integrate plot, character, and point of view. In *Men on Men* 7, Andrew Holleran's "The Married Man," about a man whose anxiety has led him to give up sex, shows how a strong command of language can be blended with theme and insight and a defining, dynamic moment. It would be wise for authors in both of these collections to study the work of these two masters at work here. Both transform their traditional narrative structure and characters into that successful storytelling thing called art. ▼

Jameson Currier is the author of *Dancing on the Moon*, a collection of short stories, and the recently published novel *Where the Rainbow Ends*.

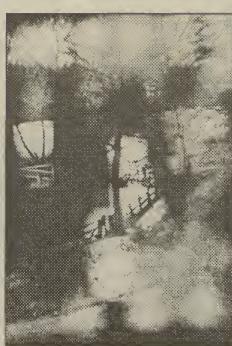
Kurt Kren

◀ page 41

the writhers. In one recurring shot, a dick and a woman's breast pop up through cut-out holes in an opened suitcase; in another, a woman attempts a faltering blow job on a man as both are sprayed head-to-toe with red paint. Like most of his films, this one is extremely economical at a mere three minutes running time, this being perhaps the limit of what any audience would accept. (Not surprisingly, Kren had great difficulty finding labs to develop such material.)

High anxiety

Even more unsettling, if possible, is 10/65, another brief record of a performance, this time of Kren's confere Gunther Brus using his nude body as a canvas. The cinematic equivalent of a Francis Bacon painting, fraught with existential anxiety, this film features Brus covered entirely in a white substance that might be paint or whipped cream and opening his mouth as if to scream without being able to. The grim intensity of the subject matter — Brus appears as a kind of animated corpse surrounded and some-

From *Asyl* (1975), by Kurt Kren

times pierced by sharp, rusty weapons — is again countered by Kren's mathematical editing, which finds order behind the chaos on the screen.

Kren's fantastic formal command of his work is evident in 3/75: *Asyl*, a veritable epic at nine minutes. This one recalls transporting works like Gregory Markopoulos' *Ming Green* with its in-camera flashing effects and surprisingly dramatic treatment of a simple country scene by using cut-out masks that allow parts of the landscape to pop in and out of

view in fanciful rhythm. Kren himself appears in 36/78: *Rischart*, but this is no ordinary self-portrait: it's a series of double-, triple-, and then countless multiple exposures of a smiling Kren with a cigarette in his mouth. The instability of the image reaches dizzying proportions as the same or related image wavers and wobbles, with the subject both fixed on the film and eternally elusive, unknowable within it.

In one of his most notorious films, 16/67: *September 20 — Gunther Brus* (a.k.a., *Eating, Drinking, Pissing, Shitting Film*), Kren again used his accommodating pal Brus, this time to reduce existence to its mechanical essence as stated in the subtitle. Kren was typically unpretentious about this startling work: "It is very dirty, being about eat-drink-piss-shitting. Many friends will hate me after having seen that film." But he added, in a phrase that shows his career as an irresistible command to create, "Sorry. It had to be done!" ▼

SF Cinematheque presents Films Inspired and Loved by Kurt Kren Thurs., Dec. 17, at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Screening Room. Call 978-ARTS.

Follies

◀ page 39

and stop time, and all that theatrical stuff. Like the dance arrangements, it was written by John Berkman, who is nowhere credited (and my thanks to music theatre critic and historian Ken Mandelbaum for confirming this

information).

Finally, it's the orchestra that brings reservations. This is not the group which accompanied the show in performance, but an ensemble hired in Manhattan specifically for the recording, and their lack of experience with the score is audible. Despite the presence of Jonathan Tunick, who was the show's orchestrator and is here its

conductor, the group can miss the pulse of a ballad, and seems to run out of steam before the big numbers end. It's this last ounce of oomph that would make the cast, and the recording, glitter. Still, the recording as a whole is likely to induce awe at the accomplishments of Sondheim and his collaborators, and at that, must be considered a warm success. ▼

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PARTING GLANCES

Koret Center Swimmer

Sat. 11/7. You: green swim suit, left with a friend in the BWL. Was he your boyfriend? We exchanged numerous glances. Call if you are available. S 5001

Mon 11/2 21st Between Douglas & Eureka - you in pick up truck - me walking small dog, we cruised, you stopped, wish I would have approached, maybe we can try again. S 5001

IEP, BOB, Tues 11/3

I said hello on my way out the door, would like to talk more. You: Kick hair & stache. Me: Brown hair & stache. Cal if single & interested. S 5002

Craig From L.A.

This is the other Craig from FL. we met @ Pleasuredome on 11/1. Call me! S 5003

Hot & Chunky Halloween

You sat next to the salad bar (a handsome Asian) me a blonde matador. Too shy to give you my #. How about a second chance to meet. S 5004

Stan, Thanks For The Aide Home & returning my Levis. Would love to speak with you again. Please call. You're so cute!!! S 5005

Sailor.....

Met you at Pleasuredome on 10/31. Me: Sailor. You: In white polyester chaps. Missed your call; Please call back. I lost your #. S 5006

DH Safeway Thurs 11/4 4ish You: Blue eyes, way handsome, in car, Me: White T-shirt bla k pants, truck. You drove by, looked in RV mirror. I smiled back a few times, got flustered. Can we meet????? S 5007

Scott: Met @ Daddy's Via AOL You: Bearded, masculine, leather, powerful, beautiful eyes, humorous, smart as a mug. Me: Steamed, bearded, blue eyes, buzzcut, creative, handsome, intelligent. I am madly in love with you. Must take you out to dinner...in Hawaii!!!!!! S 5008

Dame Edna Sun 10/25

I had a green windbreaker, goatee, dark hair, getting into a cab with my real dad when I saw your handsome beard. Kept looking back, you kept smiling! S 5009

PowerHouse Hunk

10/24 You: Exceptionally handsome man with plaid shirt open to show your beautiful hairy chest. Hearing Aides? Near patio door some guy sucked your nipples. After, I whispered "Wish I'd done that". Please call. S 5100

Jeep Cherokee Th 11/2

12:45pm Me: wild hair Jetsons Honda E.V. You: goatee, shades, nice smile, followed me Market over Portola. We waved, you turned left. Wanna ride? S 5101

Where Is Fairfield? Where R U your # was invalid: I live close to you. Would like to meet. Me: 3yrs. 5'11", 145, br/bl. S 5102

Jay The Fireman--Castro 10/31 Peter in 8 bl/wht camo would like to be trapped in your suspenders again. Looked for you in the crowd with no luck. We had great hugs. Single? Available? Coffee? S 5103

Raoul Please Call Again!! I responded to your ad, you called me fr. the 13, but my machine cut off before I got your #! Still interested? I am! Please try again--Robb. S 5104

Pacific Heights Thur 11/12/3:30 We saw each other @ doctors office, then followed each other all over fillmore st, why didn't you follow me into Alta Plaza to join me for a drink? S 5105

Streetlight Records Sat 11/7 You: Dark, and handsome in dark jacket and khakis. Me: Plain jacket, jeans, hat. I've regretted not talking, 2nd chance? S 5106

Joe Seeks Jeff

We met at Wom Out West, Sat 11/7. Lost your #. Please call leave your # again. I like you a lot. S 5107

Seamus, it's been while... Come by for a visit... and bring your human with you too! Marty. S 5108

Teus 11/17 Midnight Sun

You were in the back with a friend. Blonde, goatee & eyes that made me melt. You told me I had a beautiful smile as you left. Please call. S 5109

Neil Friday Night 10/30/98

You touched me with an incredible sensual way, with passionate rhythm felt by few. Too good to let slip away... When I see you again, we will smile. Troy. S 5201

Cute Redhead Tower Records

Mon, 11/23. You: cute red head with short bearded friend. Me: blue cap ans, dark beard. I stared, you stared. Wish we exchanged numbers or did more. Please call. S 5202

Russell Duhaime!!!!!!

You are wonderful!! You, too, have beautiful eyes! I'm yours, call me! S 5203

Gold's Gym Monday 11/16

Afternoon. Matching tattered blue towels; steam, sauna. I'm not a member; would enjoy a chance to talk with you again. Rob. S 5204

N' Touch Wed 12/2 midnight Blue

You: CAL cap (black's), sweater, boots. Me: Black jacket sitting @ maz. You: sweatshirt @ doo. I expose your Calvin Kleins-then get off Asby. Please call David. Make me smile. S 5205

22 Fillmore @ Oak 9am Tues

You: Stunning! Dark hair, eyes, Walkman. Me: Light br/hair, blue-green eyes. Heav y eye contact, but too shy to speak. Call me so we can connect! S 5306

7/21 7-11 18th & Noe

Sat 7/21 at 7-11, around 1:30, you went down Noe toward market, I went up hill, turned around exchanged glances. Could'n stop then. Want to meet? S 5301

SPCA Adoption Ctr Sun Nov 29

You: Red(?) running shorts (great legs!), short blondish hair, mid-30's (?) wandering around. Me: sort, goatee, in shorts. L S 5308

Sweet Inspirations on Market

Sun 11/29/98 9am-3pm We: white jacket talking with friend. You: handsome blonde great smile. We left, but I returned to see you. You were gone. Coffee together? Please call. S 5302

Sun 11/29 Church to Powell

U: Gothic green dress, stockings, in all black with a female friend. In shiny blk jacket. Me: short dark hair, slacks+blt, blk denim jacket. We smiled. Wish I'd said hi. Call me. Let's talk. S 5303

Opera - Norma 11/28 - 12:45pm

Exchanged glances outside & inside, while you were in ticket line. Both dressed in blue. Me: 5'9", glasses. You: taller, dark blonde. Let's talk. S 5304

Man With Yam Seeks Pineapple

Laurel Village Cal Mart, Sat 11/28 3:15pm. I waited outside but you left through the front. I said hi now it's your turn. S 5305

Cute Asian Boy At Buddies

Met you twice at Buddies. Got you off four times. Last time was on a Fri. Me: tall Asian with Speedo baseball cap. Too shy talk after. Call me! S 5306

Blue Suit/Bik Hair & Sexy!!!!!!

11/7 4pm. You: Blue suit/bik hair, sexy!! Me: Brown hair/round glasses. We both got off Muni @ Church st., saw you again 11/13 3pm. Walked your way to Page/Steiner. Would like very much to meet you!! S 5109

N Judi Train Nov. 18 9-9:30pm

You: pink Material girl, Me: white male. Perfect standing w/friend. Included you in conversation about reading people. Got off @ Duboce. Would like to see you again. S 5307

PASQUA 12/6 @ 8:00pm

I smiled @ U from across the room... Several times. You: Blk short hair, blue shirt & glasses. You were sitting with 2 friends, one older, the other blonde hair. Me: Blk short hair, blue smilie sweatshirt w 2 friends. Sitting in corner. Wanted to say HELLO... Still do. Call me.. S 5343

Terry AirCanada Thanksgiving

We spoke in flight to Toronto. U: Handsome dressed in black, short hair & glasses. Me: Short br hair, green eyes, bright smile. Call to get mile-high membership! S 5200

N' Touch Wed 12/2 midnight Blue

You: Handsome white guy w/yellow rain coat. Me: Asian w/black jeans and blue V-neck shirt. Too shy to talk to you. Second chance? S 5401

You Floored me at Elroys 12/3

You: Stunning! Dark hair, eyes, Walkman. Me: Light br/hair, blue-green eyes. Heav y eye contact, but too shy to speak. Call me so we can connect! S 5306

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

New To Town 34yo WM student, HIV+ 5'9" bl/gr, goatee, looking for sincere romantic top between 30-40 many interests. Call to find out. S 5301

Bottom Bear Seeks top

GWM 6'1", 220, 31, bnd/bl, handsome & hairy. Looking for hairy Italian or Jewish tops who love to have their crotches worshiped. Call me. S 5011

Would you Mine if I'm Asian Hawaiian Filipino 30s, 5'5", 152 HIV+, versatile bottom smooth, affectionate, romantic, non-smoker. Seeking a masc, top man in shape, or stocky, 35-55. For romance, nasty hot times, friendship or LTR. I have many interests, call for more. S 5012

SF to South Bay

GWM, 63, 5'9", 140, HIV-, ISO older gay Asian or White guy. Friendship, movies, dinners, sex. Let's talk. S 5318

Handsome & Fit Latino

Handsome Latino, 50, HIV-, 5'8", 155lbs, with an out doors job, hairy, dominant/W/Mex., Dad, 80/lb/azz, cigar, over 200#, A+, Thnx Sir! S 5014

Cub Seeker HIV+ Daddy Bear

Cute GWM, 5'7", 135-140#, buzz, bottom, 45, seeks older, husky, hairy, dominant/W/Mex., Dad, 80/lb/azz, cigar, over 200#, A+, Thnx Sir! S 5014

HIV SELM ISO Masculine Mentor

I'm in my early 20s, seeking somebody who can teach me about life and help me continue my art studies, age and race unimportant. S 5015

SF Bear Dad Sky Yngr Smaller

Me: 50yo, GWM, 6', 250, bl/gr/bald, attractive, successful. You: 20-50, avg ht/wt, mus, self-sufficient, who attitude, NS, ND. Take a chance. S 5016

Want A Change

Tired of St. Seattle. Daddy looking for boy 25-45 to call his own. Dad: mid 50s, 5'10", 160lbs. versatile. Bright eyes, ready smile, stable, well hung A+. S 5017

Seeking Man who has a Zest for Life!

A handsome, gentle man, to striking, exotic, caring, comforting, adventurous, innovative, eloquent, with sense of humor. A genuine student of human nature, affectionately, dedicated, giver and taker. Call me. S 5018

Good Looking Boy Next Door

Masculine, yng, 30s, regular guy, Br/Br, 165+, 5'8", 160#, lean, tight body, tattooed, pierced, flat top, great ass, bondage where. ISO dad 30-40+ who is aggressive, attractive, loads of fun, & a freak like me. S 5209

Butch Buckling Bottom

GWM 48, HIV+, 5'8", 140#, 8'cut, tight and muscular, hairy ass, with equally hungry mouth, looking for hot butch top Interested in starting a romantic sensual relationship! S 5210

Daddys Little Freak

GWM 28y, 5'11" 160#, lean, tight body, tattooed, pierced, flat top, great ass, bondage where. ISO dad 30-40+ who is aggressive, attractive, loads of fun, & a freak like me. S 5209

HIV+ 5'9" 190# Seeks GWM

Under 40 for LTR. I have thin brown hair/w/gray. I am 30-40# overwt. Tired of just sex. Want sex and love. S 5208

Asian Top Seeking GWM Bottom

Asian, 5'7", 130+, slender, nice dick, seeking GWM, w/o body but not thin, muscular guy with facial hair A+. S 5406

Sonoma County Skiing Sex Buddy

GWM 50, 6'1", 180+, HIV+, NS, muscular, good looking, friendly, athletic. ISO seeking a non-monogamous partner. S 5207

Asian Top寻求GWM Bottom

Asian, 5'7", 130+, slender, nice dick, seeking GWM, w/o body but not thin, muscular guy with facial hair A+. S 5406

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Asian, 5'7", 130+, slender, nice dick, seeking GWM, w/o body but not thin, muscular guy with facial hair A+. S 5406

Asian Top寻求GWM Bottom

Asian, 5'7",

Campy but good

Classical music, dance videos

by Stephanie von Buchau

The Bay Area Reporter's classical music critics take their jobs very seriously, so when I started looking at classical music and dance videos for Christmas gift-giving, I searched specifically for things that would be fun, even campy, without sacrificing artistic, aesthetic or musical values.

The Great Singers of Russia. Vol. 1 "From Chaliapin to Reizen" (VAL; 75 mins.); **The Great Singers of Russia.** Vol. 2 "From Petrov to Kazarnovskaya" (VAL; 90 mins.)

The singing on these incredible videos is superb; Russian technique, as narrator Ljuba Kazarnovskaya tells us, is pure bel canto. The first volume (almost all in Russian, without subtitles, alas) features male singers who may be bald and paunchy but have a high testosterone count. Maxim Mikhailov sounds lower than a BART train rumbling under the Bay. Ivan Kosovsky has a tenor so pure it brings tears to your eyes; his rival Sergei Lemeshov, at least when he was young, was a yummy ingenue. Everybody's vocal technique is so fabulous that Mark Reizen is heard on his 90th birthday singing Gremin's aria from *Eugene Onegin* more than once.

Kazarnovskaya makes up for the frumpy pre-war singers in Vol. 1 by wearing enough makeup and jewelry to outfit a bevy of Tenderloin harpies. In Vol. 2, the artists have caught up to the youth movement. They don't always sing as imaginatively as their predecessors, but Elena Obraztsova, the dominatrix of your dreams, delivers a powerhouse "O don fatale" that makes what we heard at the War Memorial this fall sound like Sunday School hymns. Galina Vishnevskaya, with the curvy figure of a 40s Hollywood starlet, sings a ravishing "Ritorna vincitor." Adorable Olga Borodina, looking all of 17 with a tiny waist, scintillates through "Una voce poco fa."

The kick-ass performance of the entire set is Irina Arkhipova's Carmen with Mario del Monaco as the most demented Don Jose you'll ever see. To add to the fun, she's singing in Russian and he in Italian. VAL doesn't offer enough documentation — no dates, conductors, translations — but it doesn't matter. This is catnip for the connoisseur. (Various languages; no subtitles.)

Andrea Chenier (Giordano). RAI Milano; Bruno Bartoletti, cond. (Bel Canto Society; 111 mins.)

Here is the video that Franco Corelli's fans have been panting for. The handsome Italian tenor was at his best in a romantic role like the doomed Revolutionary poet Chenier. He looks sensational in period costumes — the short tailcoats show off his flat stomach; the boots and tight breeches... well, you get the idea. At his most devastating in silver lace and powdered wig in Act One, he almost makes you forget he's singing like a god. On the box cover he tells interviewer Stefan Zucker that Chenier calls "for temperament, *slancio* and heart," and then delivers great gobs of all

three. Lucky soprano Celestina Caspietra (a K-Mart Tebaldi); Corelli is all over her, kissing her even when she is trying to sing. Baritone Piero Cappuccilli, in firm, expressive voice, would be the handsomest man on stage if France weren't already there. On top of that, the television production — not a perfect picture, but good enough — is very cinematic, fluid, passionate, ultimately moving. Bet you can't watch it just once. (In Italian; no subtitles.)

Norma (Bellini). Canadian Opera; Richard Bonynge, cond. (VAL; 150 mins.)

This is campier than the *Chenier*, yet it is also instructive to those who called for Lotfi Mansouri's head because of inadequate casting of *Tristan* and *Norma* this fall. In 1981, Mansouri was director of Canadian Opera and cast Joan Sutherland (then 55) and the late Tatiana Troyanos as Norms and Adalgisa. Sorry, possums, there are no Sutherlands or Troyanoses around today. The picture tends toward dark and the performance is relatively stately until the ladies boot the cheating tenor out of their lives, joining in a duet so closely harmonized as to give "Sisterhood" a new meaning. Tenor Francisco Ortiz, obviously chosen because he's taller than the diva, doesn't sing any better than that poor schlub who messed up in the War Memorial this season. (In Italian; English subtitles.)

Yo-Yo Ma: Inspired By Bach. Suite no. 3 "Falling Down Stairs" (Sony Classical; 55 mins.) Suite no. 5 "Struggle for Hope" (Sony Classical; 55 mins.) Suite no. 6 "Six Gestures" (Sony Classical; 53 mins.)

Yo-Yo Ma had the bright idea to produce six mini-films to Bach's Suites for Unaccompanied Cello. The three I've picked are all dance numbers, appropriate since the suites consist of French dance forms. In "Falling Down Stairs," Mark Morris creates an exuberant ensemble; the "Bourrée" is hilarious as the dancers stand on chorus risers and do funny hand gestures. "Struggle for Hope" features Kabuki *onnagata* (female impersonator) Tomaszaburo Bando, who changes his gorgeous kimono every number and employs fans, candles, and even Yo-Yo's cello in haunting original dances.

Both 25-minute numbers are preceded by half-hour documentaries about the making of the piece. "Six Gestures" is a self-contained film by Patricia Rozema in which Yo-Yo sits in Times Square playing like a street musician, while an actor tells the story of Bach's life during the composition of the Cello Suites. Ice dancers Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean act out the story in abstract choreography. Perhaps it's a bit too busy, but in the "Sarabande," after Bach's first wife dies, Torvill and Dean dance a potent love duet in which inner anguish is cloaked in external reticence. How very Bachian, especially in Torvill's performance. Not only does her body "speak" the music, but since the death of ballerina Svetlana Beriosova last month, Jayne Torvill's is now the most classically expressive face in any form of dance. ▶

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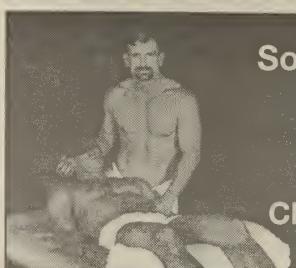
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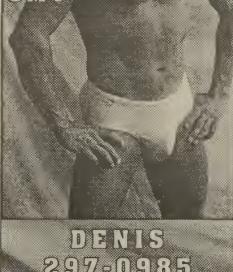
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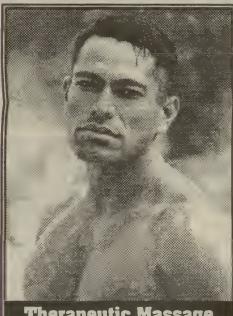
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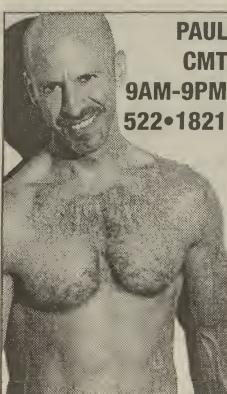
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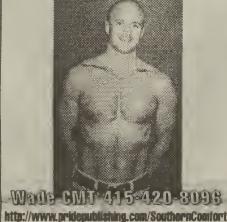


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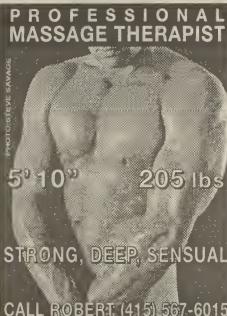
HOT & EROTIC MASSAGE

E53



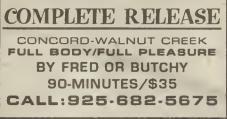
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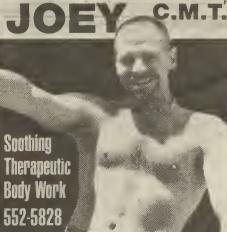
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Massage by hairy Cajun/Italian ex-football jock. 1 hour, erotic, professional, experienced. Peter 255-0558 \$50/in, \$60/out. 24 Hours.

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Luxuriate in the ultimate

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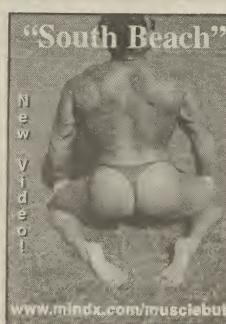
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HANDSOME HORSE-HUNG

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Deep Massage

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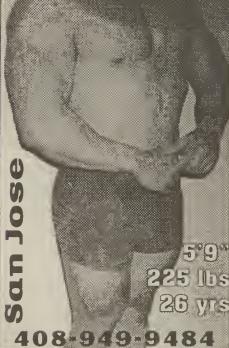
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LONG, SENSUAL SESSIONS
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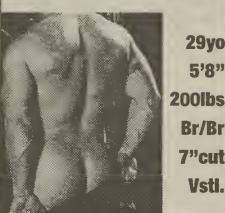
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Sound the same??? Well my,
UNCUT THICK 10"
ISTHE REAL THING
Clean-cut, muscular smooth body.
Very Pleasing Personality
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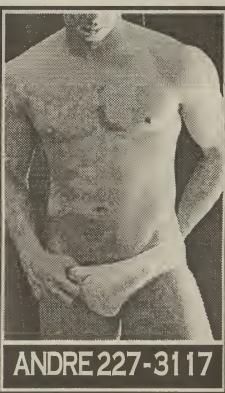
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Sexy Escort/Masseur Travel OK Out
5'9" 175 Med hry 27yo Top/Italian
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Eurasian boy, 21yo. Smooth tight
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39yo,
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Bondage,
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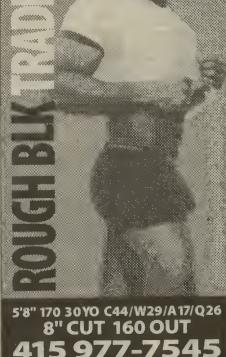
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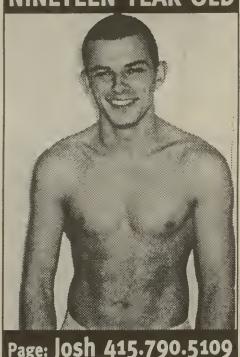
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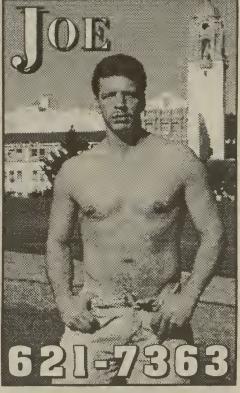
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